

Now it's the 'Damanhour Five'
U.S. politicians speak out against
Egypt's persecution of gay men.

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Still in the race
Swift drops Mass. gov. bid,
Guerriero seeks #2 job.

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Beginner's luck
Jeanne Moreau gambles with
Claude Mann in 'Bay of Angels.'
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 13 • 28 March 2002

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

The Vatican blames gays for priest scandal

analysis by
Matthew S. Bajko

While there is no doubt the sex scandals rocking the Catholic Church will force the religious institution to examine its policies regarding sexual abuse, questions remain on how gay priests, and gay men in general, will be impacted.

Some fear a witch-hunt has begun in seminaries and churches throughout the country, with officials looking to expel gay men from the priesthood. There is growing concern that the public and mainstream media are confusing pedophilia with homosexuality.

"Church leaders should be out among the victims of sexual abuse, listening to what happened and how it impacted their lives. The Christian response would be to make meaningful restitution to the victims, cooperate with law enforcement to bring perpetrators to justice, and to learn to prevent future abuse," said Mary Louise Cervone, president of Dignity/USA, a group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Catholics. "Instead, they are trying to make gay priests the scapegoats for decades of criminal abuse. It's appalling."

The issues have been blurred partly by statements from church officials. Instead of chastising sexual predators, the Vatican laid blame for its current troubles squarely with gay priests.

"People with these inclinations just cannot be ordained. That does not imply a final judgment on people with homosexuality. But you cannot

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Tessie's offers Easter dinners

by Cynthia Laird

Tenderloin Tessie's Holiday Dinners will kick into full gear this Sunday, March 31, to provide an Easter feast for those in need and others in the community.

The event will be held at the First Unitarian Church in San Francisco, 1187 Franklin Street at Geary. Dinner will be served beginning at noon and continuing until 4 p.m.

Tom Basch, president of Tenderloin Tessie's Holiday Dinners, noted that the organization has been providing holiday meals for more than 25 years. It is an all-volunteer organization and welcomes all members of the community, including the homeless, the lonely, and those with or without families.

For more information about the event or to lend a hand to help set up or clean up, call Basch at (415) 922-0422. ▼

Brian Cheu named LGBT center executive director

by Matthew S. Bajko



Brian Cheu was named executive director of the LGBT Community Center.

After a yearlong nationwide search for an executive director, the LGBT Community Center's board of directors selected a Bay Area native for the job.

The board announced Monday, March 25 that Brian Cheu, executive director of the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, had accepted the position. He will begin his new job in mid-May.

"We wanted someone who would be all things to all people. Brian exceeds our expectations," said board President Pat Martel.

While still finalizing the terms of his contract, the board hired Cheu on a one-year basis and will pay him \$100,000. After his first 12 months, Cheu will be evaluated and offered a contract extension if he meets certain performance goals.

"For me as a gay man of color, being in this building is an amazing feeling," said the 39-year-old Cheu, who is Chinese American. "It has been great seeing this building come

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Dog-mauling trial jurors speak with the B.A.R.

by Ed Walsh

Jurors in the Diane Whipple dog-mauling case so disliked and discredited defendants Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel that some speculated that Knoller may have sicced her two dogs on Whipple, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned.

Jury foreman Don Newton told the B.A.R. that jurors didn't buy Knoller's version of what happened during the January 26, 2001 hallway attack on Whipple, her neighbor. He said they were left to only guess about what happened.

"It could be that the dogs escaped out of her apartment," said Newton. "Some of the jurors even suggested she sicced the dogs on Diane Whipple."

"But how can we know that? We can't know that," Newton cautioned.

In her first interview since her participation in a brief press conference after the guilty verdicts were announced Thursday, March 21, juror Vanessa Caroline echoed Newton, telling the B.A.R. that Knoller ordering the dogs to go after Whipple was one of the scenarios jurors talked about.

"We were discussing that maybe Diane was very scared and she may have said 'Oh my God, put your dogs away.' They may even have had words, and maybe one thing led to another, and that [siccing the dogs on Whipple] was one of them."

Like Newton, Caroline didn't find Knoller credible.

"There were so many gaps in her testimony," she explained. "It was just unbelievable. We were left wanting to ask Marjorie, 'Please, just tell us what happened.'"

Jurors gave prosecutors a clean sweep, convicting the attorney couple of all five of the charges they faced. Knoller, 46, was con-



Prosecutor Jim Hammer, far left, and District Attorney Terence Hallinan listen as jurors in the dog-mauling trial, including Vanessa Caroline, rear left, and Don Newton, rear center, talk about the case after the verdicts were announced.

victed of second-degree murder and faces 15 years to life in prison. Both Knoller and Noel, 60, were convicted of involuntary manslaughter and keeping a mischievous animal that killed a person; Noel faces four years in prison. Noel was not charged with murder because he wasn't with the dogs when the deadly attack occurred.

Jurors agreed with the prosecution's main argument that the couple had ample warning the dogs were dangerous but did virtually nothing to mitigate the danger.

"They over and over showed contempt for people's opinions," said Newton. "They disregarded warnings. They never apologized and they were highly arrogant."

Newton noted that jurors were unsympathetic to Knoller even when she cried on the stand because they believed it was all set up.

Newton, a 64-year-old sewage treatment equipment repairman for the city of Los Angeles, told the B.A.R. that jurors also were doubtful of a photograph taken by Noel days after the attack that showed Knoller with a black eye. Knoller's lawyer said she got the injury in a life-and-death struggle to get her dogs away from Whipple.

Said Newton: "And [jurors] were saying, 'What the hell? [Noel] gave her the black eye! And then one lady said, 'Well, Diane Whipple hit that bitch in the eye!'"

"But that was speculation, that was just people talking," Newton cautioned.

Newton and Caroline told the B.A.R. that Knoller's flamboyant defense attorney, Nedra Ruiz, did not help in her closing statement by accusing the prosecution of hiding evidence

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Sisters' Easter party Sun.

by Joe Dignan

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in full regalia are all big pouty lips, beards, glitter, long flowing habits, and very long eyelashes.

But it's a Tuesday night, just after sunset, and Sister Bea Attitude is, out of his habit, a thin blond man named James DeVinny. He's sitting at the top of the hill on the lawn above Dolores Park. DeVinny is dressed for the cold, wearing a turtleneck shirt, jeans, and a fleecy pull over.

The park is nearly deserted, and he's brought his dog, Buster, an energetic mutt puppy. "We got him from the SPCA," said DeVinny, as he hugged the dog in his lap. "It's really important to hold them a lot."

Below where he's sitting, on Easter Sunday, March 31, he said, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will celebrate its 23rd year with a festival in Dolores Park, or as they call it, "Indulgence in the Park."

"We set up a stage down there," DeVinny said, pointing to the flat spot at the bottom of the hill. "We have a few banners that represent important points in Sisters history. One of them is the cover of Play-Fair, the safer sex brochure the Sisters did in '84. People sit up on the hill and bring a picnic. We

must have had 300 last time. The weather will be beautiful. The sun smiles on the Sisters."

"The stuff earlier is more family appropriate," said DeVinny. "At noon the Sisters are putting on an Easter egg hunt and an Easter egg race and then a kid's cupcake walk. The music stops. Basically, everybody gets a cupcake. I've heard a rumor the Easter bunny might make an appearance."

Two cops on Hondas interrupt DeVinny by riding down the steps in the middle of the park. Buster squirms free, jerking out to the end of his leash, but DeVinny reels him back in and continues on.

"We have a costume contest for dogs that was just incredibly popular last year. I would say we had about 40 to 50 in the contest. The dog that won was a Boston terrier dressed up as a cowboy. The winner of the dog contest gets a fabulous gift basket full of fun doggy things."

The Sisters' main mission is to raise money for various charities like Our Family Coalition, the Harvey Milk Institute, the Lavender Youth Information and Recreation Center, and many others. Money is distributed, in small chunks, with a maximum grant size of \$750. They gave out about \$52,000 last year. At 2:45 p.m. Sunday, they'll be distributing, DeVinny said, about \$5,000.

"After that the Easter bonnet and the Hunky Jesus contests will be at about 3. Anyone can come," he said, "but it's mainly gay men from the Castro."

DeVinny then shared some insights about the stiff competition in the Easter bonnet contest. "Last year a guy came up from Long Beach. He had a big surf-beach scene with surfboards and Barbies and Kens and starfish. He tied with a guy who had a whole flamingo thing."

As to the Jesus contest, he said that last year's winner was a woman. "It's your own interpretation as to what Jesus looks like. She threw a lot of attitude, which is really the key in the Hunky Jesus."

"You can see the Basilica from here," said DeVinny, looking out over Mission Dolores, talking about the group's run-ins over the years with the local archdiocese. "I think they misunderstood what we were all about. Our job is to spread joy and to try to help people rid themselves of the burden of guilt for feeling and being what they are. That and hand out condoms."

The Sisters' 23rd annual Easter celebration will begin at noon, Sunday, March 31 in Dolores Park at 18th and Church streets in San Francisco and will conclude at 4 p.m. Additional entertainment will include local bands and DJs. ▼

Gender groups host SF fundraiser

by Zak Baird Szymanski

As more lesbian and gay groups are recognizing the need to include gender expression in their mission statements and in protective legislation, the broader movement of gender rights for everyone is picking up steam thanks to queer allies that are not necessarily transgender or LGBT specific.

GenderPAC — the national organization working to end discrimination and violence caused by gender stereotypes — and the Intersex Society of North America — which is dedicated to systemic change to end shame, secrecy, and unwanted genital surgeries for people born with atypical reproductive anatomies — are two such efforts, and the organizations will be hosting their first-ever San Francisco fundraiser on Sunday, April 7 from 4-6 p.m.

National Center for Lesbian Rights attorneys Kate Kendell and Shannon Minter, and transgender activists Jamison Green and Dana Rivers are just a few of the notable Bay Area hosts for the event, which will be held at the home of Sydney Levy and Mark Hodgson at 208 Clipper Street in San Francisco. Levy works with the International Lesbian and Gay Human

Rights Commission.

Special guests include ISNA's executive director Cheryl Chase and GenderPAC's executive director Riki Wilchins, author of the widely acclaimed *Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender*.

Tickets start at \$100 and are

available at the door, although an RSVP is necessary by Wednesday, April 3. All major credit cards are accepted and all donations are tax-deductible. To reserve a spot, call (202) 462-6610. For more information, visit www.gpac.org, or www.isna.org. ▼

'Wedded' bliss



Forty-four same-sex couples took part in the city's sixth "Commitment Ceremony" Thursday, March 21 in the City Hall Rotunda. Mayor Willie Brown presided over the ceremony, along with other elected officials, including city Treasurer Susan Leal, and Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Mark Leno. "I know the day will come when we'll have full legal civil rights," Ammiano told the crowd, "but in the meantime, we're affirmed and very powerful."

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Gov. defends record on gay rights legislation

by Matthew S. Bajko

In courting the gay community's vote as he seeks a second term in office, Governor Gray Davis cites his record on gay rights as one of the best among the nation's governors.

"No state in America has made more progress than California has under my administration," Davis said during a March 18 interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*.

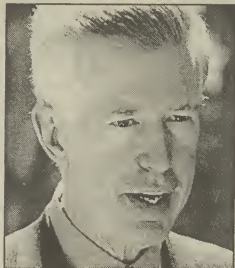
He dismissed complaints from some within the gay community who argue he has not gone far enough, saying, "I think the facts suggest otherwise."

"Some people would like to see us go further, yes. But that is the nature of advocacy. The last thing you want to do if you are an advocate is say the governor is doing a good job," added Davis.

In 1999, Davis ended the Republican's 16-year hold over the governorship. His Republican opponent Bill Simon, a wealthy businessman, wants to wrest it back this November.

The two men are polar opposites in regards to supporting gay rights. Simon has already said he will not support any legislation dealing with sexual orientation.

Then there is Davis, who signed into law nearly a dozen bills protecting or expanding equal rights for gays and lesbians. One of his first acts as governor was to sign



Governor Gray Davis

into law AB26, establishing the nation's first statewide registry for domestic partnerships. Last year, he signed into law AB25, which expanded the rights same-sex couples receive as domestic partners.

Other gay-rights laws Davis signed expanded voting rights, added protections for queer students, prohibited discrimination in employment and housing on the basis of sexual orientation, and strengthened penalties for hate crimes.

Administratively, Davis revoked a state policy that denied gays and lesbians the ability to adopt children in the foster care system. And he has signed gay Pride proclamations each year, this year adding "transgender" for the first time.

And this month Davis directed his staff to review how the state

could enact a civil union law. While he did not make an outright commitment to signing civil union legislation, many gay rights supporters see his decision to review the issue as a step toward such a policy.

"It takes real courage for the governor to stand up in an election year. That is how you know who your friends are and who your friends are not," said Scott Svonkin, spokesman for Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood). "This is a real sign of his commitment to the gay and lesbian community and to communities that look and are different than the religious right."

It is in character with how the governor approaches governing. To draw on the well-known children's parable, he is more like the tortoise than the hare.

"I move at my own deliberate pace. But, we have moved mountains in advancing the rights and responsibilities of gays and lesbians," said Davis. "And no other state is anywhere near where we are. So people can quarrel about the pace but they can't quarrel about the fact we have set the race."

While Davis may not move fast enough for some advocates, Simon likely will not move at all to advance gay rights.

"It is not exactly a difficult choice," said Jean Harris, executive director of the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, on which candidate to support. ▼

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Individual Nominee (circle up to three)

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Lenny Broberg	Hoover Lee	Glennon Sutter
Lisa Chun ft Esther Lee	Jadine Louie	Michelle Tea
Brenda Crawford	Revd. Penny Nixon	Shawna Virago
Jewelle Gomez	Donna Sachet	Seth Watkins
Surina Khan	Barry Saiff	Frank Woo
Susan Leal	Daddy Alan Selby	

Organizational Nominees (circle up to three)

Aguilas	COLAGE	Positive Resource Center
Al-Fatiha	Community Center Project	SF AIDS Foundation
API Wellness Center	Deep Dickollective	Sister Spit
Bay Area Young Positives	IGLHRC	Stop AIDS Project
Black Coalition On AIDS	Larkin Street Youth	Theater Rhinoceros
CAPE	New Leaf	Transgender Civil Rights
City of Refuge	Outreach to Elders	Implementation Task Force
	Pacific Center	

Pink Brick Nominees (circle up to three)

Gary Bauer	Jesse Helms	Pat Robertson
The Egyptian Government	Fred Phelps	Dr. Laura Schlessinger
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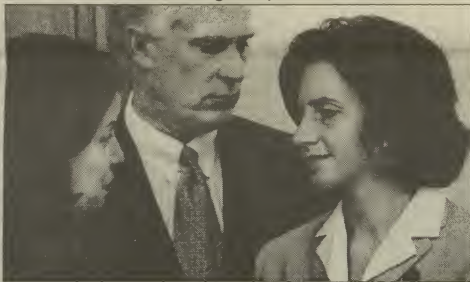
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In Berkeley: New weekly classes begin Wednesday, March 20th from 7-9pm in the gym at First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way.

Health Recovery Class: Weekly, on Monday and Thursday, 1:30-3:30PM at Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood, San Francisco. Designed for those living with HIV/AIDS, chronic progressive diseases and mobility problems. Free class...open to all...donations gladly accepted.

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SF supervisors give final OK to housing bill

by Cynthia Laird

An affordable housing ordinance championed for years by Supervisor Mark Leno won final approval by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Monday, March 25 and now heads to the mayor's office. If signed by Mayor Willie Brown the new law would take effect 30 days later.

The ordinance passed its second reading on a vote of 11-1, the same as the first vote on March 18. In both cases, Supervisor Tony Hall was the lone dissenter.

Leno noted that his plan was the "first major piece of affordable housing legislation that has come before the district-elected Board of Supervisors."

The ordinance mandates housing requirements for all residential

development of 10 units or more. Projects requiring a conditional use permit, planned unit developments, and live-work projects would be required to provide 12 percent affordable units. All other residential developments would have to provide 10 percent affordable units.

Leno's legislation sets affordability levels at 60 percent of median income for renters and 100 percent of median income for home buyers. At 2002 income levels, a single renter could not earn more than \$36,150 annually to qualify to rent an affordable unit. A family of two renters with both people working could earn no more than \$41,350 annually, or about \$9.50 per hour each. A family of four renting their home could earn only \$51,650 or less to qualify. A single home buyer could not earn more than \$60,250 annually.

The ordinance had broad support among housing advocates, Leno pointed out. Hall opposed it because he felt the plan was punitive and said residential developers were being driven from the city.

Another aspect of the ordinance offers three options for developers to meet the affordability requirement. These include:

- On-site: developers may construct affordable units within their market-rate development.

- Off-site: Developers may construct the affordable units at a different site and if so, must build an additional 5 percent of affordable units over the on-site requirement.

- In lieu fee: Developers may pay a fee to the Mayor's Office of Housing that is equivalent to the number of off-site units the project applicant would be required to build. ▼

Caregiving 101 classes to begin soon

by Zak Baird Szymanski

They don't hold hands or sing "Kumbaya." Or so say the organizers of "Caregiving 101," which is a series of classes designed for family caregivers of people with debilitating and/or life-threatening illnesses.

Caregiving 101 sessions are designed to teach practical skills to

caregivers, so that they can be more effective and operate with less stress.

Courses address how to care for a loved one living with HIV or cancer; how to assist ill loved ones with daily matters as they navigate their survival; how to build a support network; how to manage medications and speak to doctors and pharmacists; and how to seek assistance from agencies within the community.

Caregiving 101 is a program of

the Center for Caregiver Training, formerly known as Home Care Companions. Classes are free to families, friends, and partners. New classes, which will be held evenings at California Pacific Medical Center, Davies Campus, begin Wednesday, April 3 and continue on April 4, 10, 11, 17, and 18. Seating is limited, so interested people should call (415) 563-9286 to reserve a spot. ▼

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It will be held at 284 Sanchez Street (at 16th Street) in San Francisco on Saturday, April 6th at 4:00 p.m.

BALIF hears from ACLU

by Cynthia Laird

Speaking of the aftermath of September 11 and the dangers people in the United States face because of sweeping anti-terror laws, Anthony Romero, head of the national American Civil Liberties Union, told a LGBT lawyers group in San Francisco last week that if liberties are eroded, then the "terrorists have won."

Romero, the first Latino and openly gay head of the venerable civil rights organization, was the keynote speaker at the 22nd annual dinner of Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, held March 21 at the Hyatt Embarcadero. Romero assumed his duties at the New York-based ACLU offices just days before the terrorist attacks.

"We all watched on September 11 as those two planes [crashed] into the World Trade Center. We watched as thousands of Americans were brutally murdered," Romero said. "Civil libertarians are just like everyone else."

But, Romero cautioned, "hard core" American values such as due process, fairness, and democracy face challenges from those in government. "We must remind ourselves that it's not those liberties that are at fault," he said. "If we erode liberties, the terrorists have won."

He cited the detention of thousands of men of Muslim or Arab descent and other actions taken by the Bush administration since September 11. Romero also recalled the mistake the government



ACLU's Anthony Romero

made during World War II when it sent thousands of Japanese Americans to internment camps.

"We must never allow this to be repeated," he said, adding that the ACLU stood up against the internment camps in the 1940s.

"We do not know how many have been arrested and detained after September 11," he said, adding that the ACLU has filed lawsuits in New York and Michigan, among other states.

Today, the ACLU faces the increasingly difficult task of trying to fight the administration on proposals and laws that seek to give authorities greater power at the expense of civil liberties.

"We saw in record time a 342-page piece of legislation [passed] that cuts at those same values," Romero told the audience, referring to the US Patriot Act that was

signed into law shortly after the attacks. "A new crime - domestic terrorist - is so broad that it could be used against legitimate demonstrators like ACT UP and others. We saw the standards governing surveillance of telephones and the Internet lowered."

"We thought the attorney general and president would relent, then we heard about the 6,000 Muslims 'invited' in for questioning."

Romero has taken the bold step of writing to embassies and consulates of other countries in an effort to find out information about those being detained. To date, the process has been slow, but productive. The ACLU also hired a documentary filmmaker who has been able to "help paint a human face of some detainees. Now we have voices and faces of some detainees."

Romero also used his speech to warn that increased restrictions on rights could affect queers, too.

"Many [laws] begin with a focus on immigrants, but the laws could be used on our own civil rights," he noted. "Lower standards for judicial review - it's our own communications that could be imperiled. They could use these to enforce sodomy laws, which are in existence in over 14 states."

Responding to critics who say the ACLU is out of touch with most of the country, Romero said nothing could be further from the truth. "The last time I checked, the Constitution included free speech," he said. "I think it's our very same opponents who are out of touch." ▼



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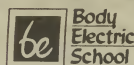
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Volume 32, Number 13
28 March 2002PUBLISHER
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Pedophile doesn't mean gay

As the Catholic Church struggles with the current wave of sexual abuse allegations involving its priests, it is apparent that if the church had its way, the blame would lie squarely on gay priests. This is not only terribly wrong, but once again shows that the Catholic Church will stop at nothing to continue the secrecy that protects the institution and obscures its role in shielding priests accused of child molestation.

This flawed approach will do nothing to help the situation; indeed, a giant dose of honesty is needed from the church hierarchy as dioceses across the country grapple with revelations that another priest has admitted he molested children years ago or that survivors of childhood sexual abuse by priests are coming forward, sometimes breaking confidentiality agreements in legal settlements so that they can speak out about what happened to them.

The public must realize that, as these stories unfold, pedophilia and homosexuality are separate issues. We are compelled to address this subject because there seems to be a growing undercurrent of homophobic assumptions in mainstream reports about the Catholic sex scandals that makes us extremely uncomfortable.

It started with a statement from the Vatican a few weeks ago in which its official spokesman suggested that blame for clergy sexual abuse lay on gay priests. It was also suggested that the crisis is a symptom of American culture's obsession with sexual matters and is limited to the American church. That sentiment continued this week with a story in the *New York Times* about the largest Catholic seminary in the country, the University of St. Mary of the Lake. There, seminary leaders are actively attempting to expel potential priests who may have gone to gay bars. While they say that being homosexual is not grounds for rejection, participation in a "gay lifestyle" — whatever that means — is.

It is this sort of reasoning on the part of the Catholic Church that disturbs us. As *Times* columnist Maureen Dowd so accurately noted this week, "Homosexuality and pedophilia are not the same thing, and the Vatican makes matters worse by seeming to

conflate the two. Moreover, child sexual abuse is not an orientation — it's a behavior and a crime."

There is no doubt that many of the victims have suffered anguish and pain over what has happened to them, and the Catholic Church must confront the allegations, report them to law enforcement, and provide treatment for those who need it. The Catholic Church should not be above the law. And for too many years, church leaders have covered up abuse allegations and knowingly and repeatedly transferred priests to unsuspecting parishes. That is wrong.

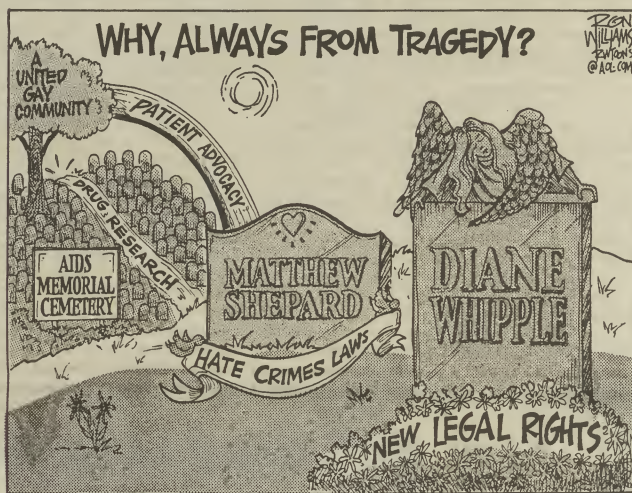
Richard Sipe, a psychotherapist and former Benedictine monk and priest who has written extensively about sexuality and the clergy, told Dowd, "If a 30-year-old man abuses a 7-year-old girl, you don't hit yourself on the head and say, 'That dirty heterosexual.'"

The Catholic Church must look inward and address a culture of secrecy and denial that is pervasive. Dignity USA, a national organization of LGBT Catholics, agrees, and Mary Louise Cervone, its president, predicted that the Vatican's blaming of gay priests would persuade few Catholics. "Members of our church know the difference between abuse of children and a healthy, mature sexuality. They see the sex abuse issue for what it is — a symptom of a repressive, arrogant system that sees self-preservation as more important than caring for individuals."

Catholic leaders would be wise to heed Dowd's statements and Cervone's observations. They must end the tactic of attempting to link pedophilia with gays. We also believe strongly that mainstream news accounts of the sexual scandals must offer more balance, so that the public does not confuse pedophilia with homosexuality. ▼



Editorial



'Bi and For the People'

by Amy Andre

The bisexual community in San Francisco got a jolt of energy on Saturday, March 9, when we were treated to an all-out gala at the new San Francisco LGBT Community Center. This fete, entitled "Bi and For the People" was organized by one of San Francisco's most visible bi couples, the inimitable Drs. Carol Queen and Robert Lawrence Morgan. The good doctors gathered several of their finest performer-friends for the evening's entertainment, which took place on two whole floors of the center.

The turnout was better than expected, with over 1,500 bisexuals and our allies and admirers in attendance. Performers included: Annie Sprinkle, who did two fabulous shows during the evening; Circo Zero, providing the evening's circus-style gymnastic entertainment to the sound of live vocals and wild applause; Ouchy the Clown, with his Porn Clown Posse; and live DJs on the third floor, where much dancing took place. There were people from local organizations and businesses from Good Vibrations to *Curve* magazine to the center's board of directors, manning tables in the lobby and fourth level to provide info and free goodies (hand mirrors, magazines, Hershey's Kisses, and more). The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence also graced us with their presence, and Mark Leno was spotted in the crowd.

In speaking with Bi and For the People party organizer Queen recently, I learned that the ball got rolling on throwing this ball when Queen and Morgan received a call from the center. "Folks at the center, [who were] in the process of planning the many parties that [happened during the] opening

week, wanted us to take on the bisexual community's celebration — which, of course, we were honored to do," Queen explained. "There's nothing like a fabulous party to help the community celebrate itself and celebrate being part of a project as significant as the new center."

She and her co-organizers had some difficulty in coming up with the name for the event. "Of course, the bisexual community has this tradition of using cute puns on 'bi,' and I was also trying to make the event seem really fancy and fabulous. The names just got out of control," she said. "Then Sister Kitty Catalyst saved the day and came up with the perfect title 'Bi and For the People!' Very populist."

Queen and Morgan organized the fete, with the help of 40 to 50 volunteers, in their capacities as founders of the Center for Sex & Culture, a newly established organization dedicated to providing sex-positive sex education and support to sexually diverse populations. (For more info on this organization, contact mail@carolqueen.com.)

During the celebration, about 250 people received formal recognition, in the form of certificates, for their contributions to and for the bi community. As one of those who received a certificate that night, I have to say that this part of the evening was a personal highlight and honor. Queen summed up the motivation for giving out these certificates when she told me, "We [used] the event as an opportunity to give certificates of appreciation to individuals who have contributed to the bisexual community here and beyond. Not organizations — because organizations

are nothing without the people who make things happen. [Instead,] people [were] recognized for the efforts they've made."

This event was the first of its kind at the center, which had its official grand opening during the prior week. It is my hope that the center becomes a home and haven to LGBTs of every stripe, including, of course, bisexuals; and I am excited to announce that the Bi and For the People party raised funds in part for the center to use in future bisexual programming.

This event was a significant one for me, as a bisexual, because of its positive impact on the current state of bi visibility (or lack thereof) in the larger LGBT community. Queen explained this sentiment best when she told me about her initial impressions of LGBT politics in San Francisco. "When I got to SF [in the late 1980s], there was so

much more bi community than I'd ever known, but it was like pulling teeth, usually, to get included in larger queer community things. Many hours of politicking had to happen to get the larger community ready to be inclusive. Throwing a bi party at the center [was] fun and fabulous, but the larger implications are really important. [The center's] presence can only help organizing in all corners of the queer community [and] will further mix us all up, which is a good way to help non-bisexuals know us and understand our issues."

Fabulous entertainment and community recognition at a low cost — what more could one desire in one evening! It is my sincere hope that this event turn into an annual happening. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

A new hero

San Francisco has a new hero to match its visual splendor. Assistant District Attorney Jim Hammer and his team of attorneys are to be acknowledged for doing a courageous job under stressful conditions.

His rugged good looks and charm before the television cameras point the way to a political career in the future. We could do a lot worse; and we have in the past. Jim Hammer makes me proud to be a San Franciscan. He has done more to elevate the reputation of lawyers than all the bar associations in the country.

John Cailleau
San Francisco

If it walks like a duck...

Despite Tommi Aviccoli Mecca's protests (Mailstrom, March 21), Tom Ammiano and his supporters are a political machine, albeit one with several missing cogs. Although they claim to be "progressive," they are actually backwardly focused, looking to a discredited Marxist economic philosophy for inspiration.

The Ammiano machine's agenda is anti-free enterprise, anti-business, anti-middle class, anti-home ownership, and anti-democratic. The last three are symbolized by its refusal to accept the overwhelming electoral defeat of Proposition N, which would have restricted tenancies-in-common (TICs) as a form of home ownership for middle income households. Losing at the polls, they pressured the Board of Supervisors into passing Jake McGoldrick's version of this legislation - which has since been ruled unconstitutional in court.

This machine insists it wants affordable housing, citing Harry Britt's 1978 rent control law as one of its great accomplishments. A recent housing study blames that law for the scarcity of rental housing in San Francisco and demonstrates that 25 percent of the city's rent-controlled apartments are occupied by households with annual incomes of \$100,000 or more, while less than 10 percent are rented by the poorest families.

Regarding the homeless, this machine favors policies that enable many of these unfortunates to continue their destructive behavior. Ammiano wanted to compel authorities to give 24-hour warnings before removing shopping carts from streets and doorways. In contrast, Supervisor Gavin Newsom has developed a strategic, comprehensive approach based on successful models to assist this vulnerable population and Supervisor Tony Hall has proposed legislation that provides alternatives to defecation and urination in public spaces.

Finally, Ammiano, during his failed run for mayor, said if elected he would "declare war on gentrification," i.e., attack an entire class of people based on their perceived attributes and beliefs. All public officials, and gay ones in particular, should know the dangers such attacks pose.

Gustavo Serina
San Francisco

Fiction in the media

How can anyone doubt that there is fiction in the media re: Chris Maden's letter of March 21. For instance, how about Robert Julian's (B.A.R., February 28) review of Michael Moore's new book *Stupid White Men*. In the review, Julian makes several assumptions instead of investigating the facts, and gets it wrong. Here's the first correction; the publisher did want to shred all 50,000 copies that had been printed prior to 9/11, telling Moore that he had to rewrite 50 percent of the book and put G.W. [Bush] in a more favorable light. Moore refused, accusing the publisher of censorship. All that Moore had written prior to 9/11 was still true. Back room deals and all. Moore got his way.

Also, for Julian to call Moore's book "sniveling irrelevancy," is like denying the Democrats deserted gays and lesbians with "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and so many other faux pas during Clinton's presidency. Saying Moore "wants to be all things" is like saying Ralph Nader wanted to be all things. No, Nader and Moore both just want the truth to get out, and the public to make an informed choice. Next time, perhaps your reviewer can get in touch with the author, or the publisher, and get the facts straight.

One last comment; Moore's references to Enron might seem prophetic to someone who only watches the evening news, or who reads the *Chronicle*. I think all LGBT folks would do themselves a service by reading the writing on the wall and knowing that G.W. and Enron are only the tip of the iceberg. If fiction in the media is not a LGBT issue, how did so many gays vote for Gore when he was against gay marriage. Read the alternative press, read Moore's book and Nader's *Crashing the Party*, listen to KPFA. How about a good investigative book review next time. Not a guessing game on the author's intent.

Robert Meslinsky
San Francisco

The 'Queen of Mean'

I was shocked that your paper would dedicate two pages to Ed Walsh's interview with Paulo Murillo [LA's

'Queen of Mean' sits with B.A.R., March 21]. What a waste.

There was nothing positive that this young man Paulo Murillo could contribute to the gay community, especially to the ethnic group that he comes from. Why, instead of attacking people who are fat, have AIDS (do we only have to care for the ones we know?), or do not speak English fluently, does he not try to educate the gay mainstream about problems that affect the minorities within our community? Why not write about oppressive systems in our Latin American countries that permit the killing of gay men only because of their sexual orientation? Why not write about the internalized AIDSphobia of some Latino HIV-negative men toward HIV-positive Latino gay men? Why doesn't he keep writing about drug abuse among some gay men?

I do not know the gay community in West Hollywood that well, but I think the difference between West Hollywood and San Francisco relies more on the fact that in general, the whole San Francisco community tends to be more sensitive and tolerant toward us, the gays.

I think Murillo gets away with murder because as a Latino, it looks okay if he bashes other Latinos. I think that is a lack of respect toward the Latino community. He complains he cannot make comments about blacks. Of course, the paper that he writes for would not permit that, because blacks would start boycotting it.

The article mentioned that Murillo might be compared with Andrew Sullivan. I am not a fan of Andrew Sullivan because of his conservative and what I believe to be racist columns. But Sullivan is a good writer with excellent material published in the *NY Times* on Islam and other subjects.

Jorge Rodríguez-Sanabria
Oakland, California

How Green is the Castro?

I'd like to take the time to mention that I'm considering a run for supervisor in District 8 in the upcoming November election as a Green Party candidate.

I believe that I'm a qualified candidate and have worked as a LGBT activist in the neighborhood for the last four years and have lived in District 8 for three years as a renter and Muni rider. I've done a lot of street outreach in the Castro for various research and behavioral studies. I've also done a lot of community work around hate crimes and HIV/AIDS.

I would like to remind your readers that it was the success of the San Francisco Green Party building a coalition with the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee that helped pass Proposition A, instant runoff voting, on March 5 and you can bet Supervisor Matt Gonzalez is going to do his best to see it implemented as soon as possible.

I would hope that the voters in the city, voters of District 8, and those in the LGBT community would seriously consider registering or re-registering as a Green Party member and see that it's the Green Party that honestly fights for LGBT equality in its party platform, unlike the Democrats or Republicans.

It was Ralph Nader who supported the full legalization of gay marriage in the 2000 presidential election not Al Gore or George W. Bush. It's time to stop tokenizing the LGBT community with promises and deliver substance and that's what the Green Party delivers.

The Green Party isn't just all about Ralph Nader, hippies, granola, the environment, or feminism. It's about all of that and more, much more. It's a party that supports total social equality and programs while maintaining local control over budgets, open government, true campaign finance and election reform, a reduced military with an increase in progressive and inclusive foreign policy, and an end to poverty and violence. It's the party built out of feminist values and totally supports a woman's right to choose and doesn't just pay lip service to it during an election year.

I hope people would seriously consider my candidacy and choose to support me in this effort. Those interested should feel free to meet with me to discuss the details of running an effective, progressive, and clean campaign.

Seth Watkins
San Francisco

Billie Holiday recalled

I just wanted to give you a bit of my memory of Billie Holiday (Lady Day) [Out There, February 28]. I first got her records in 1947 when I was a student at the University of Richmond (Virginia). I wrote her a few letters when she was in a federal prison on a drug conviction. She wrote me back. We kept in touch. In 1952 I was with a bunch of guys in Chicago where she was appearing. The guys said they couldn't believe that I knew her. I went into the club alone and she was sitting on the stage with Anita O'Day - I introduced myself and got hugs. She then asked me if I would like a particular song - she sang it and dedicated it to my partner. My friends finally believed that I had known Billie for many years.

Lawrence G. Olinger
Los Altos, California

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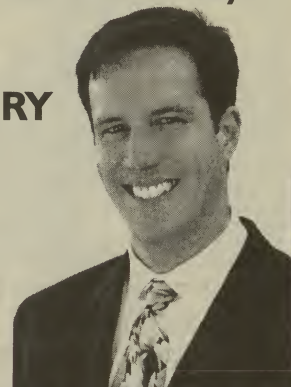
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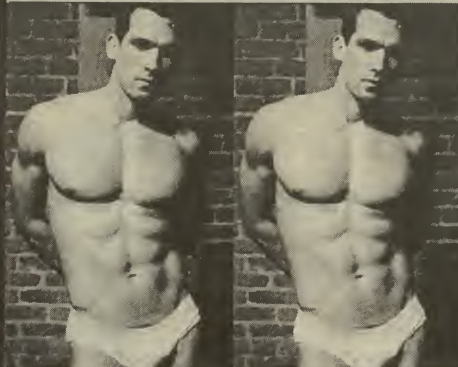
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Brian Cheu

◀ page 1

together brick by brick when some people thought it may never be accomplished."

For the board, Cheu's hiring is the beginning of a new era for itself and for the center.

"We are transitioning from a hands-on board to one with an executive director as CEO," said Martel.

It has been a tumultuous year for the center's board. Due to construction delays, the building's grand opening was delayed by six months. Negotiations with its first choice for an executive director broke down in January, prompting the board to begin a new search.

And controversy continues to dog the project, with some community members upset that the board named the entire structure in honor of Falcon Studios founder Charles M. Holmes, whose estate donated \$1 million for the naming rights.

Plus, some donors who contributed \$1,000 early on to the project are still smarting from having to pay to attend the center's opening gala earlier this month. In addition, the board has yet to complete its capital campaign, which is \$400,000 shy of the \$15.3 million goal.

Cheu said one of his first tasks will be donor outreach and to work with donors who may have concerns.

"We need to be asking people why they gave to the center and what will make them continue to give to the building," said Cheu.

Community outreach in general is a key priority for Cheu, who said he wants to ensure everyone within the LGBT community feels at home at the center. Its programming should "have some-

thing for everyone," he said.

Another priority for Cheu will be ensuring the center is self-sustaining. He said he wants to see the center have "a strong, diversified funding basis."

Martel listed Cheu's success at increasing LYRIC's operating budget by 88 percent as one of the reasons he stood out among the 24 candidates for the job.

"Their loss will be our gain," she said.

Apart from revenues generated by facility rentals and government and foundation funding, Cheu said he plans to introduce a membership program to help raise funds.

"The most successful groups, like the Sierra Club, survive because a majority of their funding comes from individuals," he said.

The details of such a membership program are still being worked out, but Cheu said it will be a multi-tiered program, ranging from \$20 to more premium levels.

Through the center's youth collaborative, a teaming of more than a dozen agencies in the city, Cheu has already been involved in

some programming decisions at the center. He said he was encouraged to see young people interacting with elderly gay people during the building's opening week.

"The beauty and potential of the center is it can capture our community's diverse voices," said Cheu. "Through dialogue we can have a stronger community and a stronger sense of who we are."

Cheu's myriad former jobs and interests should serve him well in his new position. Prior to joining LYRIC, he worked for the city's Human Rights Commission on its LGBT and HIV Unit.

He has served on the boards of numerous community groups, including Community United Against Violence, the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance, and the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans.

After graduating from Stanford University with a degree in psychology, Cheu earned a law degree at Columbia University.

Speaking about his latest career move, Cheu said "It is an awesome responsibility in a sense." ▼

Free alt. therapies class Sat.

by Zak Baird Szymanski

Pamela Anderson's recent announcement that she has contracted hepatitis C may have brought the life-threatening virus to the public's attention, but healthcare advocates have known for quite some time that the disease has been scouring communities at alarming rates.

The Quan Yin Healing Arts Center will soon begin a yearlong series of free monthly community

education programs, the first of which is entitled, "Hepatitis C: The New Epidemic," to be held this Saturday, March 30.

Quan Yin is located at 455 Valencia between 15th and 16th streets. Saturday's program will run from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will examine the scope of the HCV epidemic, and the role of Chinese medicine and acupuncture in treatment. All consumers and providers are welcome, and child care will be provided. For more information, call (415) 861-4964. ▼



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March 27, 2002 6 - 8 PM

District 8 - Bank of America, 501 Castro Street
March 30, 2002 10 AM - Noon

District 5 - Ella Hill Hutch Center, 1050 McAllister Street
April 2, 2002 6 - 8 PM

District 10 - Southeast Community Facility, 1800 Oakdale Avenue
April 3, 2002 6 - 8 PM

District 6 - The New LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street
April 4, 2002 6 - 8 PM

District 4 - Taraval Police Station, 2345 24th Avenue
April 6, 2002 10 AM - Noon

District 9 - The Women's Building, 3543 18th Street
April 10, 2002 6 - 8 PM

District 7 - St. John's Church, 275 Olympia Way
April 11, 2002 6 - 8 PM

District 2 - Newcomer High School, 2340 Jackson Street
April 16, 2002 6 - 8 PM

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POLITICS

SF mayor, state Senate seats up for grabs

by Wayne Friday

The March 5 primary in San Francisco accomplished several things — among them the fact that the local political waters are muddier than ever. If, as some still think, there are political “machines” left in San Francisco, then the so-called Burton-Brown machine (or at least, what’s left of it) certainly got slapped around pretty good this month, particularly with the resounding defeat of **Kimiko Burton**, the daughter of state Senator **John Burton**, who had been appointed a year ago to the public defender post by Mayor **Willie Brown**, the senior Burton’s longtime friend and political ally.

Then, there is the **Tom Ammiano** machine (oops, sorry, the progressives like to call their machine a “coalition,” don’t they? It’s only a machine when it applies to those other guys). Anyway,

they took it on the chin as well when they threw their weight behind the wrong guy, **Harry Britt**, for the 13th Assembly seat, only to watch him lose by a comfortable margin to Supervisor **Mark Leno**, the one true independent in that four-candidate contest.

As for the labor machine, well, it jumped in bed — checkbook and all — with the Ammiano machine (sorry, coalition), along with Assemblywoman **Carole Migden**, and her checkbook, in an attempt to resurrect the long-retired political career of former Supervisor **Britt**. With Britt’s loss, that machine (or what’s left of it) also took a convincing kick in the ass.

To be sure, there were no real winners among personalities in the local political scene on March 5, other than likely Assemblymember-to-be **Leno** and Public Defender-elect **Jeff Adachi**. Oh, yes, termed-out Assemblywoman **Migden**, running unopposed, won the Democratic nomination to the 1st District Board of Equalization seat and is favored to beat her GOP opponent in November. **Migden**, however, picked up many political enemies by turning against longtime friend and political ally **Leno**; so **John Burton**’s Senate seat that she has been eyeing for 2004 looks to be a bit further from her reach than she probably thinks. **Migden**, ever the political realist, must know that **Leno** is the new guy in town and nice guy that he is, **Leno** (to say nothing of his staunchest supporters) isn’t likely to soon forget that **Migden** got “down and dirty” in the final weeks of the campaign, including sending out a mailer accusing **Leno** of “using smear tactics to distort **Harry Britt**’s outstanding record.” But what the hell, San Francisco politics have always been “down and dirty” — even among longtime friends, I guess.

So, just where does the March 5 primary leave local politics? An early look: For starters, to replace termed-out Mayor **Brown**, you can safely put Board of Supervisors President **Tom Ammiano** in the race; almost as surely, Supervisor **Gavin Newsom** will be a candidate. Add to those two, the names of other possibilities such

as former Supervisors **Angela Alioto** and **Barbara Kaufman**, city Treasurer **Susan Leal**, Supervisor **Tony Hall**, S.F. Police Chief **Fred Lau**, former political consultant (and mayoral candidate) **Clint Reilly**, and possibly District Attorney **Terence Hallinan**, and we’ve got ourselves some fun.

First off, Ammiano, once thought to have the political left to himself, will possibly have to share that vote with Alioto and perhaps Hallinan, and might have to share much of the LGBT vote with Leal — that means big problems for Ammiano.

Chief Lau, who I’m repeatedly told is being pushed by heavy-hitting political figures in the Asian American community (their city-wide population is now in the 35-40 percent range), would be challenging **Newsom**, **Kaufman** and even **Leal**, for the city’s political center; a Lau candidacy would also affect part of Hall’s West of Twin Peaks support.

As for retiring Senator **John Burton**, my Sacramento contacts tell me that he quietly told the state Democratic Senate Caucus that he will not be running for San Francisco mayor and prefers to spend his final two years staying on as president pro tem of that body.

And what about **Carole Migden**, who was once often mentioned as a mayoral candidate? Well, as mentioned a couple of weeks ago, she made that “deal” with Ammiano to support him for mayor in return for the left’s machine (sorry, coalition) support for the state Senate seat, didn’t she? Takes her out of the mayoral picture. **Brown**’s gone next year; **Migden** is out of the show — hey, this one could really be fun, especially with the new instant runoff scheme to muck things up. All bets on who will emerge as San Francisco’s next mayor are immediately off.

As for the 3rd District state Senate seat that **Burton** must vacate in 2004: **Carole Migden**, as I said, is clearly very much interested in this job, and under other circumstances would be a natural, but she pissed off so much of her former political base by turning against **Mark Leno** this year that she could well be watching the 2004 Senate contest (and six years beyond) from a safe BOE seat for the rest of her political career. Yes, I’m told **Migden** says she doesn’t have political problems, but I can tell you at least a dozen or so checkbook gays and lesbians who want their names removed from her contributor list (you smiling yet, Tom?), but that’s a story for another day. **Migden** still might run for the Senate seat, but I wouldn’t bet on her winning it.

Can **Willie Brown** win in the 3rd Senate District? Possibly, but I don’t think he even gets into it. Incidentally, the district was recently redrawn to include some key black neighborhoods, but only about half of the district is now in San Francisco (where the mayor’s popularity has plummeted) while the remainder is in Marin and Sonoma counties. **Brown**, to be sure, still has powerful political allies in labor, but, again, I’m guessing he passes on the race and the

seat will likely go to someone like former S.F. Mayor **Art Agnos**, Marin attorney **Chris Moscone** (son of the late S.F. Mayor **George Moscone**), former Marin Assemblywoman **Kerry Mazzoni**, or even the current Assemblymember, **Joe Nation**. The 3rd Senate seat election is still two years away, but an early tip? Keep an eye on both **Agnos** and **Moscone**.

Politics and people

If there is a new “star” name in local politics it has to be **Jim Hammer**, the 40-year-old openly gay assistant district attorney who successfully prosecuted the notorious dog-mauling murder case. I know **Hammer** only socially but find him to be a bright, likable, and attractive young man. If, as some believe, his boss, **Terence Hallinan**, still wants to cap off his own political career with a run for mayor, look for **Hammer** to become the instant favorite to become the next district attorney, thereby making him the first ever openly gay district attorney in the state, if not the entire United States.

That giant sucking sound that GOP political operatives might be hearing could be the **Simon** for Governor campaign going down the drain (a la **Matt Fong**) after the *San Francisco Chronicle*’s **Carla Marinucci** reported last week that **Bill Simon** had hired **Louis “Phil” Sheldon Jr.**, a chip off the old block of his homophobic dad, the anti-gay, anti-choice Reverend **Lou Sheldon**, to help the get-out-the-vote effort in **Simon**’s recent primary campaign. Those who know the younger **Sheldon** say his old man’s anti-gay, anti-abortion views pale in comparison to **Junior**’s, who, incidentally, the **Simon** camp has belatedly fired from the campaign. Hey, the **Sheldon-Simon** hookup sounds like the perfect matchup to me, considering that **Simon**, if you are to be guided by his own campaign literature, is as homophobic as either of the **Sheldons**. One of **Simon**’s pre-primary e-mail messages sent by the younger **Sheldon** soliciting votes from the state’s religious right Republicans claimed that he (**Simon**) was “the best candidate to undue four years of liberalism, homosexuality, and anti-family values in California.”

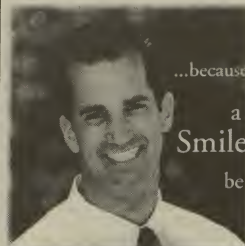
In San Francisco, BART Director **Tom Radulovich** is quickly emerging as a leading candidate to replace Supervisor **Mark Leno** as the 8th Supervisorial District representative in November. Candidates in the race to succeed Assemblyman-to-be **Leno** would be wise to get **Leno**’s endorsement in that he whipped **Britt** by more than 16 percentage points in the 8th District on March 5.

Look for longtime Democratic Party activist **Jane Morrison** to emerge as the next chair of the S.F. Democratic County Central Committee.

New York Senator **Hillary Rodham Clinton** and Mayor **Willie Brown** will host a breakfast fundraiser for Lieutenant Governor **Cruz Bustamante** on Friday, April 5, 8:30-10 a.m. at the Mark Hopkins Hotel (\$200; 415-441-6900 for tix and info).

Did anyone notice that on March 5, a lesbian attorney, **Nancy Davis**, was elected overwhelmingly to a seat on the San Francisco Superior Court?

And how was your week? ▼



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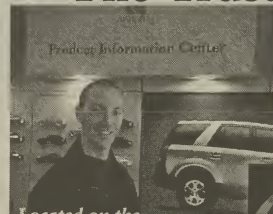
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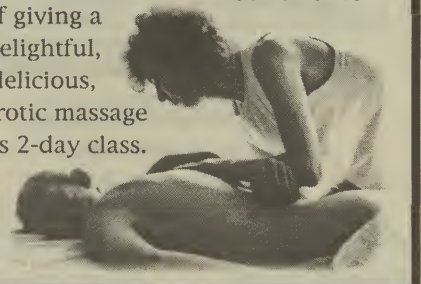
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Who wrote *Kiss of the Spider Woman*?

by Paula Martinac

March 24, 1986 (16 years ago this month): Actor William Hurt wins a Best Actor Oscar for portraying Molina, a gay man, in the film version of Manuel Puig's *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

For much of his early life, Argentinean novelist Manuel Puig dreamed of a brilliant career directing films. When that goal eluded him, he turned to writing literary novels. Ironically, it was the movie adaptation of his gay-themed novel, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, that made him an international celebrity.

Born in 1932, Puig grew up a handsome, effeminate boy in a small town on the Argentine pampa. His earliest memories were of going to the movies with his mother to see Hollywood imports. At 10, he began taking English lessons, "because it was the language of films."

Around the same time, he experienced a sexual awakening with a young male friend. Although throughout his life his strongest emotional and physical ties remained with men, Puig also had affairs with women, which he jokingly referred to as his "lesbian" flings.

Puig began pursuing a career in the movies after college, when he won a scholarship to a prestigious film school in Italy. In the years that followed, he unsuccessfully tried his hand at a variety of film-related jobs and penned a number of mediocre screenplays in English.

Friends encouraged Puig to switch to his native tongue and write about experiences close to



The late Manuel Puig

him. The result was his first Spanish-language novel, *Betrayed* by Rita Hayworth (1968), a mostly autobiographical work about a boy who finds comfort and escape in the movies. The book met with exuberant praise from critics, as did his next two novels.

But just as Puig was achieving literary recognition, the political situation in Argentina deteriorated and his novels – which often included sharp social commentary – could no longer be published in his own country. He moved to Mexico, where he wrote his most famous novel – *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (1976).

In *Spider Woman*, Puig's deep love for the movies, his experiences as a gay man, and his political views about Argentina all came together. The novel centers on the relationship of two very different men sharing a jail cell in a Latin American country – an effeminate homosexual arrested for "corrupting a minor" and a heterosexual Marxist political prisoner. Critics

ranged from lukewarm to cold about the novel, which consists mostly of dialogue and is peppered with footnotes about homosexuality.

It wasn't until Brazilian director Hector Babenco's 1985 film of *Kiss of the Spider Woman* that Puig's book achieved international fame. Starring William Hurt and Raul Julia, the movie was nominated for numerous awards. Puig should have been thrilled, but, in fact, he hated the movie. "La Hurt is so bad," he complained, "he will probably win an Oscar." Hurt did indeed take home the Best Actor award in March 1986.

Puig also disliked the musical version of *Spider Woman*, which premiered in 1990. He pronounced the playwright, Terrence McNally, "a horror" and the entire production "a mess." Critics agreed – the play had to undergo a massive overhaul before making it to Broadway.

Puig didn't live long enough to see the new version. In July 1990, he died in Mexico of cardiac arrest following routine gallbladder surgery. (There are conflicting stories about whether he actually died from complications of AIDS.) Three years later, the revived *Kiss of the Spider Woman* won seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical. ▼

Suggested reading

Levine, Suzanne Jill. 2000. *Manuel Puig and the Spider Woman: His Life and Fictions*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Manrique, Jaime. 1999. *Eminent Maricones: Arenas, Lorca, Puig, and Me*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

Priest scandal

◀ page 1

be in this field," Joaquin Navarro-Valls, spokesman for Pope John Paul II, told the *New York Times*.

Already, a Chicago-area seminary is asking applicants if they have frequented gay bars or clubs as a way to filter out homosexuals.

And it has been reported that church officials are developing a psychological test to determine if men applying to be priests are gay.

"In fact, there have been secret gay societies within the church for centuries – in addition to a silent tolerance of consensual sexual activity between priests and women. Is the church going to acknowledge these historical realities?"

asked commentator Lewis Whittington.

Then there is the church's mandate that priests must take a vow of celibacy. Many within the church are now openly questioning that policy, with some publicly saying it is unrealistic to expect men to adhere to such a vow.

"The question is: do the present structures serve us well? For the structures are meant to serve us and not the other way around. Jesus didn't set up any specific structures for the Church, and so we must renew and change them in our time to enable us to be what we are meant to be," said Donal Godfrey during a St. Patrick's Day Mass at Most Holy Redeemer in the Castro.

Could such a change be in the church's future? Possibly. But for years the church has denied its priests to be sexual beings, and has chastised homosexuals for acting on their sexual desires.

Maybe the best that can be hoped for is a more frank discussion of sexuality. And a renewed push for the church to fully accept its gay parishioners.

"I feel like Sinead O'Connor in a way. I want to tear up a picture of the pope. That man could, with two words, make homosexuality all right. Just by saying 'Let there be fags,'" said Jack Fritscher, author of the novel, *What they did to the Kid: Confessions of an Altar Boy*. ▼

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Competing AIDS bike-a-thons take toll on organizers

by Zak Baird Szymanski

When the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center announced that it had cut 60 jobs last week due primarily to the controversy and confusion over its involvement with competing bike rides for AIDS funding, many LGBT people and HIV/AIDS advocates reacted with hostility and fear.

It was, after all, foreseeable that the center was in for a challenge when it chose to withdraw from Pallotta Teamworks' California AIDS Ride, which had been known to bring in more than \$3 million a piece to the center and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation annually. And when SFAF and the center decided to host their own bike ride known as AIDS/LifeCycle — which first had to endure a lawsuit in order to go forward — it was evident that the bitter feud would overshadow both fundraisers, taking money from nonprofits in need.

News reports about the center's layoffs put the cost of its legal battle with Pallotta Teamworks at \$600,000, and a center employee disclosed that AIDS/LifeCycle would not make nearly as much money as anticipated.

So it was not unusual that many in the Bay Area were concerned that SFAF, the center's partner in the Pallotta battle and

the new AIDS/LifeCycle event, would face a similar fate.

"We're nowhere near that," was the word from SFAF spokesman Gustavo Suárez, who said that the agency had already made budget cuts in non-client services in order to account for what they knew would be "the first year in a multi-year event."

"Annual events always make less money in the beginning," Suárez told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We knew when we went into it that it would be an investment in the future, that there might be a short-term loss for future long-term gains."

Suárez would not put a dollar figure to SFAF's legal costs, which he believes could be lowered after arbitration with Pallotta Teamworks is completed. But he did acknowledge that AIDS/LifeCycle has enlisted fewer riders than the agency had expected; about 1,000 riders have signed up, he said, but organizers are hopeful for another 500 participants. Both SFAF and the center blame the deficiency on Pallotta Teamworks for engaging in what Suárez calls a "deliberate effort to confuse the public."

"When California AIDS Ride organizers vowed to do everything in their power to destroy our event, it was the truest statement they ever made," said Suárez, who noted that to this day SFAF and the center can still be found on store displays as

beneficiaries of Pallotta's event. "When people are confused, they tend to sit out the event."

That is apparently true of Pallotta's event as well; reports indicate that California AIDS Ride is also short of projected riders and pledges.

Each rider is expected to raise a hefty minimum for both Pallotta's AIDS Ride (\$2,700) and AIDS/LifeCycle (\$2,500), so a shortfall of just a few hundred riders could mean a loss of \$1 million or more. Pallotta, evidently counting on such a loss, announced on March 11 that it would discontinue its AIDS Vaccine Rides for the foreseeable future due to their less-than-profitable returns. SFAF's Suárez acknowledged that his agency's budget could change next year based upon this year's AIDS/LifeCycle returns; while Pallotta's AIDS Rides were once responsible for bringing in a full 25 percent of SFAF's annual budget of \$24 million, the new AIDS/LifeCycle has not yet occurred, making projections impossible.

"Nobody is being laid off this fiscal year," said Suárez, who pointed out that cutbacks happen for a variety of reasons, and it was unlikely that the AIDS Ride debacle would be the sole cause of any future belt tightening. "We're so far away from that; anything said on the topic would be pure speculation." ▼

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Gay candidate still in Mass. Lt. Governor race



Candidate Patrick Guerriero

by Matthew S. Bajko

While Massachusetts Acting Governor Jane Swift dropped out of that state's gubernatorial race last week, the openly gay man she handpicked to run for lieutenant governor says he is still in the running.

Patrick Guerriero, the 33-year-old former mayor of Melrose, Massachusetts and three-term state House member, told the Bay Area Reporter he has no inten-

tions of withdrawing from the race.

"I am feeling very confident that there is a movement to support me at the Republican convention. I am working very hard to surprise some folks there," said Guerriero, a deputy chief of staff in Swift's administration.

He faces wealthy businessman James Rappaport for the state Republican Party's nomination during the September primary. Both men need to gain the party's backing at its convention April 6.

If he survives the September primary and is elected in November, Guerriero would become the first openly gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender lieutenant governor. He also would be the most visible gay Republican elected to office in the country.

"Things are probably moving faster today than any day in the campaign. Things are full speed ahead," Guerriero told the B.A.R. Thursday, March 21, only hours after meeting with millionaire venture capitalist Mitt Romney.

Romney, a 55-year-old Mormon, entered into the race only hours after Swift dropped out Tuesday, March 19. Romney has seen his approval ratings soar over Swift's among Massachusetts voters due in large part to his successfully cleaning up the scandal-plagued Salt Lake City Organizing Committee and presiding over last month's Winter Olympics.

Although he could have tapped his own candidate to run for lieutenant governor, Romney decided to accept whomever the party selects to be his running mate.

"The only thing less predictable than Massachusetts weather is Massachusetts politics," commented Guerriero.

If Guerriero makes it to the Statehouse, he would become the first non-incumbent, openly-gay, statewide elected official in the country. His chances of making political history can only be bolstered by becoming Romney's running mate instead of Swift's second-in-command.

Since taking over the governor position last summer, Swift has been plagued with problems and scandals. And this year she has been stuck with a budget crisis due to the faltering economy.

"Over the last couple of weeks a combination of things confronted the governor. Mainly, the fiscal challenge facing the state and the looming candidacy of an American hero named Mitt Romney," said Guerriero. "She made the decision to unite the party behind Mitt. I supported her decision."

He said his political acumen is the perfect match to Romney's business success and can only bolster their chances in defeating their Democratic challengers come this fall.

"I bring experience as a state legislator and mayor of a city which is the perfect compliment to his private success story between business and the Olympics," Guerriero said.

Whether Republicans feel the same way remains to be seen. But Guerriero said he feels hopeful about his chances of garnering the party's support in April.

"We are feeling very good and we are mobilizing support," he

page 14 ►

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FEATURING OUCHY THE CLOWN

OUCHY THE CLOWN

Egypt's gay persecution goes on, but not unnoticed

by Zak Baird Szymanski

Four months after the Egyptian government punished 23 men with sentences of one to five years of hard labor for alleged homosexual behavior – a crime according to the country's interpretation of Islam – the courts were at it again on March 11, sentencing five men accused of consensual homosexual conduct to three years of prison and three years of subsequent probation.

The "Damanhour Five," as they have come to be known, were arrested in Damanhour, the capital of Al-Behira province, on January 15. The men faced charges of "habitual practice of debauchery" and were forced to undergo physical examinations which according to prosecutors found the men to have been "used," or in other words, showed evidence that they were receptive partners in anal sex. Judges deliberated for a mere 15 minutes before handing down the men's sentences, despite testimony that they were victims of torture and forced confessions.

On March 4, the defendants told the court that they were tortured into admitting homosexual behavior, and were subjected to beatings and electroshock during their two months of captivity. Meanwhile, on the same day, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met with President Bush and other United States officials during a visit to America, where he was welcomed and praised as a moderate voice in the Middle East, with his hosts "steadily remaining silent about Egypt's persecution of suspected homosexuals," according to the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission.

"Egypt is an important ally of the United States, and yet the United States remains silent on this issue," said Sydney Levy, spokesman for IGLHRC. "President Bush must remember that against torture there should be no immunity, and there can be no neutrality."

The LGBT Muslim group Al-Fatiha leafleted in front of Washington's Ritz Carlton on March 5, where President Mubarak was scheduled to speak, "in order to highlight the human rights abuses committed by the Egyptian government," stated Faisal Alam, Al-Fatiha's director. "President Mubarak needs to know that his policies of persecuting homosexuals will not go unchallenged."

Some U.S. officials have taken initiative and sent letters to Egypt condemning the recent wave of arrests and sentencing based upon perceived homosexuality.

A bipartisan coalition of U.S. representatives on March 20 issued a letter to Mubarak urging him to reverse his government's policy of homosexual persecution. The letter was the latest in a round of correspondence that began after 52 men were arrested last August during a raid of a party aboard a boat in Cairo. In January, a letter from Egyptian Ambassador Nabil Fahmy arrived in response, delayed in part because of mail screenings due to the anthrax threat. Fahmy denied that the men in Cairo were arrested on the basis of their sexual orientation, and reiterated that the charges were based upon "contempt of religion" and "public lewdness." Last week's response from members of Congress rejected that claim.



Gay Muslims demonstrated last August in D.C.

"We are encouraged that Ambassador Fahmy in his letter officially denies that the 52 men in Cairo were prosecuted because of their perceived sexual orientation. We say we are encouraged because this denial recognizes that such actions are essentially indefensible ... Yet when one looks at the

record of the trial, it seems to us that sexual orientation was in fact the motivating factor behind these prosecutions," the letter states.

The letter was signed by 37 House members, including Representatives Tom Lantos (D-California), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Florida), Cynthia McKinney (D-Georgia), Christopher Shays (R-Connecticut), Maxine Waters (D-California), Barbara Lee (D-California), Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts), and Majority Whip Nancy Pelosi (D-California).

Arrests of gay men in Egypt have been frequent in the past year, from the "Cairo 52," which resulted in the November sentencing of 23 of the suspects, who are unable to appeal the ruling because it took place before an emergency court, to the "Boulak Four," who expect a decision on their appeal soon. The Damanhour Five can – and are expected to – appeal their convictions. ▼

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Miss Universe 2001 Denise Quinones signs posters

AIDS Update confab discusses prevention, treatment, and care

by Liz Highleyman

The 14th annual National HIV/AIDS Update conference brought several hundred attendees to the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium last week, March 19-22, to learn about the current state of the epidemic.

The theme of this year's conference, sponsored by the American Foundation for AIDS Research, was "Prevention, Treatment, and Care: Forging an Integrated Response."

"An understanding of treatment options will strengthen prevention education efforts," said conference chair Dr. Mervyn Silberman, a former health director in San Francisco. "Likewise, caregivers need to understand and integrate prevention outreach into the menu of services they provide for people with HIV/AIDS."

Unlike some of the large sci-

entific AIDS meetings, NAUC — which takes place every year in San Francisco — focuses on making information about HIV/AIDS available to front-line providers. Participants had the chance to hear the latest updates on topics such as drug resistance, delayed treatment, antiretroviral drug side effects, complementary and alternative therapies, and HIV and hepatitis co-infection.

Other sessions focused on practical issues such as dealing with provider burnout, funding, employment benefits and housing for people with HIV/AIDS, and program evaluation. There were also workshops on culturally appropriate prevention and care for women, youth, transgendered people, seniors, substance users, prisoners, African Americans, Native Americans, and rural gay men.

Several presentations looked at the politics and practicalities of

AIDS prevention, including Friday's keynote address by San Francisco Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D). Reflecting the conference's harm reduction focus, Dave Purchase of the North American Syringe Exchange Network also spoke at Friday's plenary. A symposium on Thursday featuring Dr. Kenneth Mayer, Dr. Don Francis, and Dr. Jeffrey Klausner from the San Francisco Department of Public Health looked at biological means of prevention, including microbicides and vaccines.

Reflecting the recent emphasis on worldwide HIV/AIDS issues, the conference included presentations on the new Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and a workshop on drug pricing and patents by James Love of the Consumer Project on Technology and Anne-Christine D'Adesky, a writer for *amfAR's Treatment Insider*.

One interesting session, presented by staff from Cannabis Helping Alleviate Medical Problems (CHAMP), looked at the medicinal use of marijuana in people with HIV/AIDS. Executive Director Michael Aldrich outlined the history of marijuana as medicine and key studies concerning the herb's therapeutic uses. Melinda Smith described the various social and educational programs provided by CHAMP and how these play an integral part in the healing process. Tappie Dufresne discussed different methods of cannabis administration and their varying therapeutic effects. Smoking marijuana is the most rapid method of administration. Eating brings on the herb's effects more slowly, but they may be stronger and last longer. Cannabis tinctures are a discreet way of using the medicine and seem to be especially effective for pain. The newest method of marijuana administration is volatilization, in which heat is used to release the active components of the herb without the dangers of inhaling burning plant matter. The effects of different strains of marijuana, and individual effects on different people, can vary widely; CHAMP provides education to its members to help them determine which method is best for them.

No conference is all work and no play. NAUC also provided opportunities for networking. A gala reception on Wednesday featured an appearance by Miss Universe 2001 Denise Quinones, who also gave a keynote address and did street outreach in the Mission. ▼

STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF MARIJUANA ON HIV+ PEOPLE WITH PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY

This study will evaluate whether smoking marijuana reduces pain in people with HIV-related peripheral neuropathy.

TO JOIN THIS STUDY YOU MUST:

- Be HIV positive
- Be 18 or older
- Be diagnosed with HIV-related painful neuropathy
- Be on either a stable antiretroviral therapy or no antiretroviral therapy for at least 8 weeks
- Be willing to give up marijuana for 30 days before entering the study
- Not be a cigarette and/or cigar smoker
- Meet some additional criteria

IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE YOU WILL:

- Spend 9 days and nights in a clinical research center at San Francisco General Hospital
- Have blood tests and other measurements done
- Smoke medicinal marijuana three times a day
- Keep a pain diary for 7 days pre and post hospitalization to track your neuropathy related pain

YOU CAN RECEIVE UP TO \$600.00 FOR PARTICIPATING

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (415) 476-9554 EXT. 21

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CHR H105-18269-01

A STUDY OF DHEA IN HIV+ PEOPLE

This study's purpose is to learn how DHEA affects the HIV virus, the immune system, hormone levels, body composition and quality of life.

THIS STUDY IS OPEN TO HIV+ PEOPLE WHO:

- Have a viral load of less than 50 copies/mL,
- Are on a stable antiretroviral treatment regimen for at least 8 weeks,
- Do not have current active opportunistic infections or malignancies,
- Are not active substance abusers, and
- Meet other criteria as required by the study.

IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY YOU WILL:

- Be assigned by chance to take either DHEA capsules or placebo (sugar pill) twice a day for 12 weeks, followed by DHEA twice a day for an additional 12 weeks; and
- Make 8 visits to San Francisco General Hospital for blood and urine tests, body composition measurements and completion of questionnaires.

YOU WILL RECEIVE \$25 PER VISIT AND ALL STUDY MEDICATION FREE OF CHARGE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (415) 476-9554 EXT. 15

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CHR H105-16026-02

Mass. Lt. Gov.

◀ page 12

said. "I am working very, very hard to make a surprise, strong showing at convention."

To date, his being gay has not been much of an issue in the race, he said.

"People are more concerned on my stand on taxes, improving public education, and the environment than any personal aspect of my story," he said.

That could change after the convention, when issues such as abortion and gay marriage could take center stage. While Guerriero supports gay marriage, Romney has yet to take a stance on the issue.

Gay political observers are taking a wait and see approach to how the race will pan out. Brian Bond, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, said the Republican Party has a chance in changing its reputation with the Guerriero-Rappaport race.

"With the Republican Party of Massachusetts, while more progressive than most Republican parties, clearly there is a lot of movement that still needs to be done. Rappaport is one example of that," said Bond. "I don't see Rappaport as any friend of the gay community. It would be a setback in the Republican Party if Rappaport did defeat Patrick in the primary."

If he does succeed, Guerriero plans to visit San Francisco and other California cities to raise campaign funds this summer. ▼



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Because it's strong and effective. Keep your viral load down with the #1 prescribed HIV medication of its kind.* VIRACEPT works with you to keep your life on track.

Because it's easy to live with. VIRACEPT's easy dosing schedule and manageable side effects have been helping all kinds of people continue to lead their lives on their own terms.

Because it saves future options. When choosing a treatment plan, it's important to consider what options you will have in the future. Studies show taking VIRACEPT early on leaves you with choices in treatment for later. Ask your doctor about your future with VIRACEPT.

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nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder

VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com.

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VIRACEPT® (nelfinavir mesylate) Tablets and Oral Powder

Information for Patients about VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)

Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), EpiVir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)

Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)

Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglut®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others

Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)

Halcion® (triazolam)

Versed® (midazolam)

Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with: Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

Phenobarbital

Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)

Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)

EpiVir (lamivudine, 3TC)

Zerit (stavudine, d4T)

Videx® (didanosine, ddl)

If you are taking both Videx (ddl) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects,

ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight Kg	Body Weight Lb	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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OBITUARIES

Mary Kathryn Friebe
1920 — 2002

Mary Kathryn Friebe died at her El Cerrito home on January 14, 2002. She retired in 1963 as a professional nurse and Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy. She then continued her career in nursing with a Bachelor of Science from U.C. Berkeley and Master of Science from UCSF.

Following her retirement from nursing, the focus of her life was activism rooted in civil rights: women's rights, gay rights, equality for people of all races, protection for sexual minorities in the military, pro-choice, national health care, combating ageism, death with dignity and labor causes. Her philanthropic endeavors for many years reflected her spirit of generosity and dedication to helping others.

Among the many organizations of which she was a vital part are the Alexander Hamilton American Legion Post No. 448, the Women's Philharmonic, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and Gay and Lesbian Atheists and Humanists, all of whom will be participating in the celebration of her life.

A Tribute to Her Life will be celebrated on Saturday, April 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the National Maritime

Museum Senior Center, 890 Beach Street in San Francisco.

Michael Rebore

Michael Rebore, 38, passed quietly in his sleep on the 18th of March, 2002, after a 10-year battle with HIV and Cancer. Born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, Michael moved often before settling in San Francisco from Orlando. By his side was his partner of four years, Duke Pham, and several of his closest friends.

Michael fought tirelessly towards a cure, placing himself on several clinical trials while maintaining an active lifestyle. He took full advantage of living in the Bay Area and enjoyed its natural beauty.

He is survived by several relatives and friends, including his parents Richard and Joan Rebore of Florida. He is also survived by his sisters Susan Schmitt, Patty Pokallus and his brother Jim Rebore. Michael was preceded in death by his beloved Sheltie of 10 years,

Conroy.

His family and friends would like to thank all of the doctors, nurses and support staff who assisted in his care through the years.

He is greatly loved and will be missed.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Robert Noel speaks out

by Ed Walsh

Robert Noel is confident of his chances for appeal. In large part, he believes the jury's verdict was unfairly influenced by the prosecution associating him and his wife with the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang.

In an exclusive print interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*, Noel said his case overall presents "serious issues" for appeal.

Noel spoke to the *B.A.R.* from San Francisco County Jail on Tuesday afternoon, March 26, two hours after he arrived back from Los Angeles, where the case was tried.

When asked whether he was

surprised by the verdict, Noel said: "I've reacted to this verdict the same way I've reacted to every other verdict, take what comes and deal with it. Not that it didn't surprise me, but after 34 years [of practicing law], I'm not really surprised by anything a jury does."

"I was really concerned about the impact on Marjorie [Knoller, Noel's wife]. I certainly don't question the sincerity of the jury in their deliberations. I was very concerned about the [second-degree murder verdict] because I thought it was an extremely unfair result. I don't want to go into it too much because that will be hashed out on appeal."

Knoller did not agree to be interviewed by the *B.A.R.* but she

told KTVU-TV in an off-camera interview that she was "astounded" by the verdicts and wants to now concentrate on the appeal.

Noel said he was able to talk with Knoller during the drive back to San Francisco.

"We got to talk off and on for five hours," he explained. "She's maintaining. She's upset. But she's maintaining."

Although Noel declined to go into detail about his grounds for appeal, he clearly was most disturbed about the prosecution connecting him and Knoller with the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang. Noel and Knoller's adopted inmate son, Paul Schneider, is a member of the gang.

page 19 ►

Trial jurors

◀ page 1

to curry favor with the gay community.

Strategy backfired

When asked what he thought of Ruiz's strategy Newton said: "Well perhaps she misjudges the average person in Los Angeles. She maybe thought she was going to get some people on the jury to be unsympathetic to the prosecution because they were trying to prosecute the case of a gay woman who was killed. It certainly didn't affect the jury in our sense of what had gone wrong."

"I imagine that in the jury there were different points of view but there wasn't anybody at any time who expressed any hesitation to convict Marjorie Knoller because she had killed someone who is gay," added Newton.

When asked about Ruiz bringing up the gay issue, Caroline told the *B.A.R.*: "That was wrong. That was so uncalled for. I couldn't believe she said that. She thought maybe that some people would look down on the prosecution."

Ruiz suggested that prosecutors were hiding evidence of Knoller's torn sweatshirt sleeve that was found mixed up in the hallway with Whipple's torn clothes. That evidence bolstered Ruiz's claim that Knoller heretically fought off her two Presa Canario dogs to help save Whipple's life. Lead prosecutor Jim Hammer insisted that contrary to Ruiz's claim, he stipulated to the evidence, allowing it to be brought in without challenge.

Newton said the evidence of Knoller's shirt sleeve didn't hold much weight with him.

"It's possible that one of the dogs, as she was trying to get it back in the apartment, chewed up the sleeve of her sweater, sure," said Newton. "It doesn't necessarily at all imply she was lying on top of Diane Whipple trying to protect her. Certainly there weren't any bite marks around her wrist where it was chewed off."

"There wasn't any reason to believe Marjorie with all the contradictions in her story," Newton added.

The foreman said he was appalled by Ruiz asking Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, if Smith considered whether Whipple would still be alive if she filed a complaint about the dogs being dangerous.

"Nobody wanted to hear anyone say that," said Newton. "This was a person without shame. She was just totally throwing herself on the tracks in order to stop the train. None of the jury was sympathetic to her at all. They felt that was entirely inappropriate and wrong."

Added Caroline: "It was very unnecessary to blame someone who is grieving a loss like that."

Said Newton: "She was desperate because she had a really poor case and she made the mistake of putting Marjorie Knoller up there to contradict herself. She was just trying to figure out any type of smoke screen technique to get Marjorie off."

Knoller testified in her own defense; Noel did not testify during the trial.

Caroline, 19, said that although jurors were turned off by Knoller

and Noel's personalities, they went on the evidence.

"And the evidence pointed that they were guilty," she said. "We tried not to think of their personality as we deliberated."

Newton said the key concept for jurors was that of "implied malice."

"There wasn't any malice with the intent to kill but there was with the disregard for human life," the jury foreman said.

On Wednesday, March 20, jurors announced that they reached verdicts on four of the five counts against the attorney couple. Newton and Caroline said that although the panel was leaning toward convicting on the fifth charge, that of second-degree murder for Knoller, they decided it would be best to break for the day on Wednesday and sleep on it overnight. When they returned for deliberations Thursday morning, they decided to go ahead with convictions on all five counts.

The verdicts were announced a little after 1:30 p.m. last Thursday. Noel showed no reaction but Knoller gasped when it was announced that she was guilty of second-degree murder. Knoller later turned to her parents and appeared to mouth "help" to them through the glass partition that separates the courtroom and spectators.

Outside court, Smith told reporters that although she was pleased with the verdicts, there could be no joy in it for her because of the loss of Whipple, her partner of seven years.

Sentencing is scheduled for May 10 in San Francisco. The couple plans to appeal. ▼



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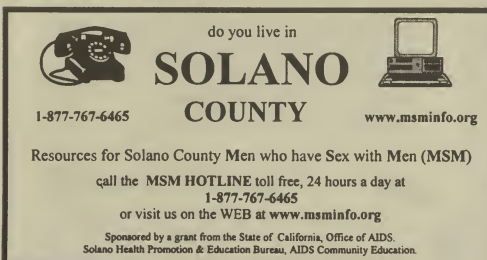


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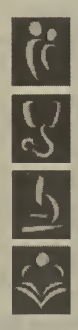
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Check mates

by Jim Provenzano

With Gay Games VI eight months away, few in the GLBT sports community are fretting over plans for Gay Games VII, set for 2006 in Montreal.

Yet Outsports.com's Cyd Zeigler Jr. alleges a "swirl of controversy" in an article that claims "questions have been being raised as to the ethics of their winning bid, specifically the presentation of a \$100,000 check to the Federation (of Gay Games) by Montreal representatives."

At the victory presentation in October 2001, Olympic swimmer and honorary co-president Mark Tewksbury presented a large cardboard check for \$100,000, promising to pay the full amount if they won the bid.

But despite winning, no payment has been made to the federation. Zeigler's article includes quotes from representatives of losing bid cities, alluding that the check was an unfair inducement to give the bid to Montreal.

But Federation of Gay Games officials think differently.

"Outsports.com was wrong," said federation representative Charlie Carson.

"Mark Tewksbury announced that Montreal would be handing over four letters of support from various government sources after the presentation. Mark then said that Montreal was 'ready to sub-

mit a payment of \$100,000 as a license fee advance deposit.' Mark waved a prop check to emphasize the last point. Some people have misinterpreted that to mean that Montreal was also handing over a check. What Montreal was saying was that, should it be selected, it was fully prepared to begin making license payments at any time."

Eyebrows were raised over the initial \$1 million fee requested for the Games. Following the economic fallout, and other factors, the federation reduced the fee to U.S. \$650,000.

But some think the true value of the Gay Games has been under-estimated.

"The bidding process for the Gay Games has changed substantially since the first truly competitive bidding took place in 1993 for Gay Games V," said Carson.

"The economic impact statement released by the New York City Mayor's Office following Gay Games IV in 1994 was an indication that the right to host the Gay Games was vastly undervalued. The federation also received private professional advice about how to set fair market value for host license fees. The federation changed the bidding process accordingly for the 2002 Gay Games."

"All 2006 bidding organizations based their budgets on the U.S. \$650,000 license fee between the federation and Sydney 2002.

The 2006 bidding organizations were told in advance that they should minimally anticipate that the license fee for 2006 would not be lower."

As to the 2006 initial payments, the federation is hardly demanding an immediate payment.

"The tentative date for an agreement between the federation and Montreal 2006 on the contract for Gay Games VII is during the federation's upcoming annual meeting, which will be held this July in Vancouver," said Carson. "This timeline would have been the same no matter which of the four bidding organizations had won the right to host the 2006 Gay Games."

So, what's all the fuss? Perhaps Zeigler's having once been on the board of the Los Angeles bid committee has something to do with it.

One losing bidder called the Canadian check, "unsavory. Los Angeles 2006 certainly wouldn't have done it that way," Shamey Cramer, the head of the Los Angeles 2006 committee, told Outsports.com. "Of course they were trying to influence the vote."

Los Angeles may not have done it that way, but its bid proposal did include a "tribute to Buzby Berkley," and erroneous claims that the movie choreographer was gay.

Outsports.com recently became the sports content provider for *Genre* magazine and the merged gay Web sites Gay.com and Planetout.com. Despite Plan-

next page ►



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San Mateo seeks medical marijuana volunteers

by Liz Highleyman

A groundbreaking study is currently enrolling at the San Mateo County Health Center to examine the safety and feasibility of smoked marijuana for managing pain due to HIV-related nerve damage. The study is expected to last for more than a year, but only a few individuals will be enrolled at a time for six-week periods until a total of 60 participants have completed the study.

Despite the fact that Proposition 215 allows for the use of medical marijuana in California, federal officials have consistently blocked most research on medicinal cannabis. Several reports—including one released by the Institute of Medicine in 1999—have acknowledged the medicinal value of the herb. However, the Supreme Court ruled last May that, "In the case of the Controlled Substances Act, the statute reflects a determination that marijuana has no medical benefits worthy of an exception."

San Mateo County Supervisor Mike Nevin, who was a San Francisco police inspector for nearly 30 years, worked for two years to get the study under way; five federal agencies and one state agency had to approve the research.

"I see this study as a milestone, a first step, toward the day when this drug will be available for doctors to prescribe for people who are suffering great pain," Nevin said.

In the pilot study, led by Dr. Dennis Israelski, participants will

be assigned to receive either medical marijuana or the standard of care for peripheral neuropathy. Volunteers assigned to the marijuana arm will smoke medical-grade cannabis obtained from the hospital pharmacy under staff supervision in a specially designed room. The county has ordered 300 marijuana cigarettes from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the sole legal supplier of cannabis for medical research. Those in the standard of care group must agree to refrain from using marijuana for the initial six weeks of the study, but will then be offered a six-week course of medical cannabis.

Prospective participants must be at least 18 years old, on stable anti-HIV therapy, and have used marijuana in the past; there are no CD4 cell count or viral load criteria. Volunteers may not have active opportunistic illnesses, psychiatric conditions, or a history of alcohol or drug addiction. Women may not be pregnant or breast-feeding and participants must agree to use effective birth control during the study.

In addition to looking at the effectiveness of marijuana for neuropathic pain, the study will also gather data on appetite, body weight, nausea, and quality of life. If results are encouraging, the researchers hope to conduct additional medical cannabis research in the future. ▼

For more information about the study, call the San Mateo County Health Center at (650) 573-2748.

more info, visit www.ggwc.org.

Runway out

If Oscar night gowns inspired the couturier in you, San Francisco Frontrunners' Little Black Dress Run should provide an opportunity to show off your threads.

On Saturday, April 6, at Golden Gate Park's Stow Lake at 9 a.m., the frocked foot-race will be followed by brunch and a fashion competition slightly more polite than Joan Rivers' red carpet commentary.

A dance and fashion contest that evening, 8 p.m. at Kimo's, will top off the Little Black Dress event. It's no Oscar party, but the band Three Hour Tour will perform. Your \$10 donation benefits Pets Are Wonderful Support.

To find out more, visit www.sffrontrunners.com or call (415) 668-3771. ▼

For less "swirling" coverage of Gay Games, visit www.sportscomplex.org.

there with that kind of background. It sure as heck wasn't because I said anything in the courtroom. I sat back and kept my mouth shut." ▼

Next week: More of the B.A.R.'s interview with Noel. He weighs in on flamboyant defense attorney Nedra Ruiz. He responds to criticism over the letters he wrote that were introduced against him in the trial. Noel also takes on the controversial Good Morning America interview which strongly affected the jurors' decision.

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

VOLUNTARY ARTS CONTRIBUTION FUND

Everyone can support the arts through the City's unique Voluntary Arts Contribution Fund (VACF), but property owners may make a contribution with ease by using the coupon in their homeowner's tax bill in April and December. Administered by Grants for the Arts of the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, the VACF provides support for urgently needed equipment or capital improvements, including safety hardware, wheelchair ramps, special lighting and fireproofing.

The City covers all overhead costs: so 100% of all donations go directly to the arts groups that need them most.

By adding a donation to their April 2002 property tax payment, taxpayers can make a difference to the many arts organizations that help make San Francisco a vibrant and exciting place to live. For further information, call (415) 554-6710 or visit the web site at <http://slgta.org>.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Office of Contract Administration, Purchasing Division is soliciting applications for the position of Class 1952 Purchaser. The filing deadline: April 1, 2002, at 5:00 P.M.

Annual Salary is \$48,776 to \$59,306. This will be a provisional appointment. Minimum Qualifications: B.S. degree from accredited four-year college or university, AND two years verifiable professional experience in purchasing. Experience must include contract and bid preparation, proposal evaluation and award.

Applications will be available beginning March 18, 2002, at: Office of Contract Administration, Purchasing Div., City Hall, Rm. 430, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl., San Francisco, CA 94102. Telephone (415) 554-6743

Application must include: completed application, resume, supplemental application, cover letter

PROPERTY TAX SECOND INSTALLMENT DUE

Treasurer Susan Leal reminds all San Francisco property owners that the second installment of Secured Property Tax for 2001-2002 must be paid by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2002. Bills were mailed to all property owners last fall at the addresses shown on the tax roll. Online payment is available at the City Services website: <http://www.cityservices.sfgov.org>. If you own property in San Francisco and you do not have a bill, you may obtain one online at the City Services website; call Taxpayer Assistance at (415) 554-4400 to have one sent to you; or visit the City Payment Center in City Hall Room 140.

3120 MISSION SOCIAL SERVICES/EMPLOYMENT CENTER NOW OFFERS EVENING HOURS. The San Francisco Career Link center for Social and Employment Services now offers expanded hours on Thursday until 8pm. This friendly multilingual neighborhood center is a great place to find help with bilingual Department of Human Services' Food Stamp, Medi-Cal and Employment Services staff ready to serve you. Located near the corner of Cesar Chavez and Mission St., you will find a children's playroom, computer access to job information and dozens of ways to connect with a broad array of services whether you are looking for training, needing health insurance for your family, or looking for information about welfare. Call Career Link at 415-401-4800.

CITYWATCH

View live coverage of the Board of Supervisors, Commissions, Council meetings and special events on CITYWATCH, San Francisco Government Cable Channel 26. CITYWATCH may also be viewed online: <http://www.sfgov.org/citywatch/>. You may also call the hotline at (415) 557-4293, to hear a recording of live cable cast and repeat playback times.

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.



City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Request for Proposals #211

Dear Potential Applicant:

The San Francisco Department of Human Services announces its intent to seek proposals from agencies and organizations interested in contracting to provide independent life skill services; including life skills classes, tutoring, college club, mentoring, vocational club and computer training as part of the SF Independent Living Skills Program.

The contract period will run from 7/1/2002 to 6/30/05 for an amount to be determined.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, on or after Friday, April 5, 2002. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. RFQ packets will also be available on the internet at <http://civiccenter.ci.sfgov.org/purchase/pbids.nsf>, click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on Wednesday, April 17th, 2002, at 9:00 AM at 170 O'Connell Street, 8th Floor Conference Room, SF, CA. For further information, call Johanna Gendelman at (415) 557-5162. Due date for responses is Monday, May 6th, 2002 at 5:00 PM.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 255578

The following person(s) are doing business as: Moran - Lighting & Electric, 1139 Cole Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Timothy John Moran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 30, 1990. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/27/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 255599

The following person(s) are doing business as: Zebelen, 210 Fell Street, #7, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Vidakovic Zejkovic and Felic Senjad. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 28, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/28/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 255646

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Real Food Company, Fresh Organics, 1001 & 1023 Stanyan Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Timothy W. Hinrichs, VP. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/01/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 255645

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Real Food Company, Fresh Organics, 9339 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Timothy W. Hinrichs, VP. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/01/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS OR CITATION

CASE NUMBER: FL 044400

Upon reading and filing evidence consisting of a declaration as provided in Section 415.50 CCP by Marjorie A. Williams and it

satisfactorily appearing therefrom that the defendant, respondent, or citee, Greg Williams, cannot be served with reasonable diligence in any other manner specified in article 3, Chapter 4, Title 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and it also appearing from the verified complaint or petition that a good cause of action exists in this action in favor of the plaintiff, petitioner, or citee therein and against the action or that the party to be served has or claims an interest in, real or personal property in this state that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court or the relief demanded in the action consists wholly or in part in excluding such party from any interest in such property: Now, on motion of application for publication of summons Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff(s), Petitioner(s), or contestant(s), It is Ordered that the service of said summons or citation in this action be made upon said defendant, respondent, or citee by publication thereof in The Bay Area Reporter a newspaper of general circulation published at San Francisco California, hereby designated as the newspaper most likely to give notice to said defendant; that said publication be made at least once a week for four successive weeks.

It is Further Ordered that a copy of said summons or citation and of said complaint or petition in this action be forthwith deposited in the United States Post Office, post-paid, directed to said defendant, respondent, or citee if his address is ascertained before expiration of the time prescribed for the publication of this summons or citation and a declaration of this mailing or of the fact that the address was not ascertained be filed at the expiration of the time prescribed for the publication.

MAR 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 255704

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tina's Laundromat, 636 Cheney Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Patrick Sahagun. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 11, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/08/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 255641

The following person(s) are doing business as: SF Skincare, 2000 Van Ness Avenue Ste 509, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Shari Spakes, manager. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on November 16, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/25/2002.

MAR. 14, 21, 28, APR 4, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 255788

The following person(s) are doing business as: Utopia Catering, 947 Geary Street Apt. #11 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael Adams. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/07/2002.

MAR. 14, 21, 28, APR 4, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 255820

The following person(s) are doing business as: Kamel Household Wares, 606 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Quyen To Huynh. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/07/2002.

MAR. 14, 21, 28, APR 4, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 203310

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Kamel Restaurant Supply. Located at: 507 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 3/22/1996.

This business was conducted by: a Individual: Quyen To Huynh.

MAR 14, 21, 28, APR 4, 2002

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

etout's previously having rarely covered sports, the online company is the official media sponsor of Gay Games.

Greco-Romanly

Congratulations to Golden Gate Wrestling Club's David Dodson. He won third place in freestyle, and a second place in Greco-Roman wrestling at last weekend's MiddleTown Tournament against some fierce competitors.

"This is another first for GGWC; a Greco placing," said the overjoyed coach, Gene Dermody.

Golden Gate continues its fundraising race toward Sydney this weekend. Meet David and other grapplers this Sunday, March 31 at the Lone Star Saloon's beer benefit. Bay Area Bear Cub 2001 Brad Taylor hosts the fundraiser from 4-8 p.m. Talk about Pagan rituals; bears and grapplers and beer. Oh my! For

Robert Noel

◀ page 17

"It doesn't have a thing to do with what the dogs did on the 26th of January [the day of last year's attack]. But it's all in [the prosecution's case]. And then the judge gives this long instruction to the jury about how they are to disregard all of this that he's let in. It's one of the most confusing instructions that I've ever seen. And then [lead prosecutor Jim Hammer] stands up in his closing argument and says the case begins and ends with the Aryan Brotherhood. I can see why the jury got

LEGAL NOTICES



City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Request for Proposal #212

Dear Potential Applicant:

The San Francisco Department of Human Services announces its intent to seek proposals from agencies and organizations interested in contracting to provide adoption services which include: recruitment, orientation, training, and developing homestudies of potential applicants interested in adopting children from the San Francisco Department of Human Services - Family and Children Services Division. The contractor will also provide assistance with matching the children and post-adoption services.

The contract period will run from 7/1/2002 to 6/30/05 for an amount to be determined.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, on or after Friday, April 2nd, 2002. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. RFP packets will also be available on the internet at <http://civiccenter.ci.sf.ca.us/purchase/pbids.nsf>, click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link

The Respondents' Conference will be held on Thursday, April 11th, 2002, at 12:00 PM at 170 Ois, 8th Floor Conference Room, SF, CA. For further information, call Kimberly Ferguson at (415) 557-5585. Due date for responses is Thursday, May 2, 2002 at 5:00 PM.

STATEMENT FILE NO.255037

The following person(s) are doing business as:FTM International, Inc. 160-14th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Joel Levine, Treasurer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 7, 1997. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/08/2002. MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.540088

In the Matter of the Application of Freedom Wong, for change of Name. The application of Freedom Wong for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Freedom Wong has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Philip Wong. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 2nd day of May at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540172

In the Matter of the Application of Frank Guerra Medina for change of Name. The application of Frank Guerra Medina for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Frank Guerra Medina has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Francis Sebastian Medina. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 6th day of May at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540166

In the Matter of the Application of Jeffrey Tar Genza. For change of Name. The application of Jeffrey Tar Genza for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jeffrey Tar Genza has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Claudio Milano. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 2nd day of May at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.255819

The following person(s) are doing business as:Kamel Restaurant Supply, 507 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Quyen To Huynh. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/07/2002. MAR. 14, 21, 28, APR 4, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.255560

The following person(s) are doing business as:Pre-Millennium, 7 Leland Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Michael R. Tenorio and Alicia Tenorio and Betsy Ponce. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/27/2002. MAR. 21, 28, APR 4, 11, 2002

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 255904
The following person(s) are doing business as: Two B Restaurant And Bar, 598 Second Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Harvey Rifkin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/11/2002.
MAR. 21, 28, APR 4, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 255890
The following person(s) are doing business as: A Concept, 386 Precita Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Ernest E. Frost. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 11, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/11/2002.
MAR. 21, 28, APR 4, 11, 2002

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LEGAL
NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 256006

The following person(s) are doing business as: Jin Company, 645 Larkin Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jinsung Zhang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 14, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/14/2002. MAR. 21, 28, APR 4, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 255971

The following person(s) are doing business as: Green Wave Consulting Services, 1825 Chestnut Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Douglas Messersmith Wasmuth. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 13, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/13/2002. MAR. 21, 28, APR 4, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 255915

The following person(s) are doing business as: S&S Brothers Company, 101 Utah Street #130, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Rabinder Maheshwari. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/12/2002. MAR. 21, 28, APR 4, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 255833

The following person(s) are doing business as: Yoga San Francisco, 2269 Chestnut Street #207 San Francisco, Ca. 94123 This business is conducted by an co-partners signed Nancy Gifto. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/08/2002. MAR. 28, APR 4, 11, 18 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 255951

The following person(s) are doing business as: Night Crawler Production, 54 Chicago Way, SF, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Anthony Galileo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/2/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/12/2002. MAR. 28, APR 4, 11, 18 2002

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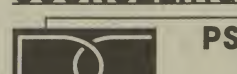
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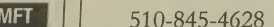
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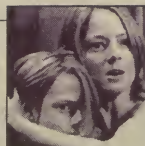
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Foster child
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Mysteries of Pittsburgh
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 13 • 28 March 2002

Taking a chance on love

Jeanne Moreau plays for high stakes in *Bay of Angels* at the Castro Theatre



Claude Mann and Jeanne Moreau in Jacques Demy's *Bay of Angels*

Raymond Gauchetier / Ciné-Tamaris

by Tavo Amador

Compulsive behavior is often destructive and can be difficult for those not afflicted to understand. In his 1963 film, *La Baie des Anges* (*Bay of Angels*), Jacques Demy shows the appeal of gambling and gets us inside the head and heart of Jackie Demaistre (Jeanne Moreau), enabling the audience to empathize with

her addiction while at the same time hoping she can break free. With a restored print, it plays the Castro Theatre March 29 through April 4.

The title comes from the bay at Nice, skirted by the famous *Promenade des Anglais*, where the casino is located. Although set primarily on the French Riviera, there is nothing glamorous about the milieu. These gamblers seem like automatons.

Jean Fournier (the impossibly sexy Claude Mann) works in a Paris bank, lives at home with his father,

an horologist with a small shop (Henri Nassiet), and seems like a typical *petit bourgeois*. When a colleague, Caron (Paul Guers), gives him a lift home in his new car, paid for by gambling winnings, Jean is intrigued but resistant. Caron insists he join him at the casino at Enghien. Jean's father warns about the dangers of gambling and makes it clear he will not put up with it.

Jean succumbs to Caron's invitation and is lucky, winning the equivalent of six months' salary in one

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Author Ghalib Shiraz Dhalla on finding a sense of community in America

Gay and South Asian in America

by Sandip Roy

I think gay life was much more decadent in Mombasa than it is in Los Angeles," says Ghalib Dhalla firmly. Really, you think? Dhalla's debut novel *Ode to Lata*, about a South Asian gay man from Mombasa looking for love and lust in Los Angeles, would not seem to suggest so. You are not even 15 pages into the book before it's three in the morning and you're in a sex club where the line to get in is going out the door! But Dhalla explains, "For it to be decadent, there has to be an element of repression and secrecy. When things come out

in the open, it loses that. Here, it is like going to a supermarket and selecting a product."

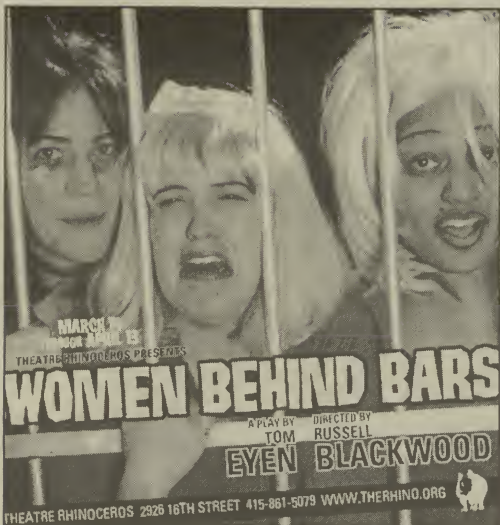
The grass, of course, is always greener on the other side. Growing up in the close-knit Indian community in Kenya, Dhalla could only fantasize about gay life in America. The gay community, too, was very incestuous — Dhalla estimates it was about two degrees of separation. Society in East Africa is divided by race — Africans, Indians, Caucasians. In *Ode to Lata*, Dhalla's protagonist Ali is still processing the color codes when he takes a black lover in Los Angeles. With unflinching honesty, Dhalla says, "Ali has grown up in a colonial society where

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John Salley

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



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by Roberto Friedman and Best Supporting Byline

What with the endless ceremony, the swanky reception, the pampered guests in fancy gowns and penguin suits, the gift-bags stuffed with goodies, and the boring, pompous speeches, the Academy Awards show is surely the world's biggest, glitziest bar mitzvah. But wasn't it terrific last Sunday night when 33-year-old Halle Berry took home the award for Best Actress? Now it's certain that her film's sequel will be made, *Monster's Other Ball*. And what a triumph for the home team when documentarians Sarah Kernen and Lynn Appelle won for their short subject *Thoth*, all about the former-SF street musician. Here's a guy who went from playing the violin in his loincloth at BART stations to taking the stage of the Kodak Theater: the "one-man opera" deserves 10 gold statues just for that!

Host Whoopi Goldberg's best line (really, Bruce Vilanch's best line) of the evening was also a San Francisco moment, as she mused about perennial also-ran actress Sharon Stone, "What woman hasn't wanted to lock her husband in a cage with a Komodo dragon?"

Big spreads

And the prize for Most Polyan-



Out There

na Oscar Piece goes to the *Comical's* "Oscar Greatest Moments," which blathered on about the 1980 Oscarcast the night after Reagan was shot as a "moment of national healing. If the Oscars were happening, nothing could be too wrong with the world!" Er, that's if you overlook the biggest arms run-ups in history ('til now) and a little scourge called AIDS. It would be years after this feel-good moment that the Photo-Op Pres even mouthed the acronym.

We also think it takes a prizeworthy amount of gumption, not to mention buckets of self-regard, when you're the Editor-in-chief of a national gay glossy, and you excerpt your first novel in the April issue of your own magazine! Then you "theme" in the boxing designer fashion-spread to boot! Why not just call it *Bout* magazine for the whole self-serving issue and offer it for free inside of the Alyson hardcover?

Let your Uncles Out There be the ones to pass on the equally alarming news that the gay neocolumnist formerly known as Power Glutes has been enticed into appearing onstage in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. And we were worried about the anthrax attacks!

On his blogfest website, the Gluted One blogged: "The play is Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, and I'm playing *Benedick*, one of my favorite characters in Shakespeare's repertoire. The play opens April 23, Shakespeare's birthday, and runs through May. I'll post details when the show approaches. So far, I've been rehearsing three hours most days and having a blast. My only condition for doing it was not wearing tights. I will, however, have a pair of black leather pants. That should pack them in." Out There is still enjoying a huge tidal wave of relief from three sentences back.

Girlfriends a-go-go

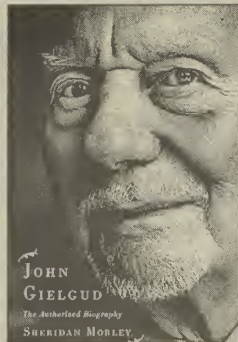
Is a lesbian couple where one of the partners is a television star still an item? If so, then the announced engagement of Ally McBeal's Portia de Rossi and her longtime girlfriend, singer Francesca Gregorini, is a bona fide item. Francesca, a sonorous new name to resonate in the echo chamber that is commercial publicity, is the daughter of actress Barbara Bach and the stepdaughter of Ringo Starr, two very old names.

Portia and Francesca smooched together for the *Hot Stuff* column of a recent *Us* magazine. Their blonde and brunette hair covered their respective faces as they planted a big wet one on each other's kissers. The glossy mag gives the gals a half-hearted tout as "this year's Anne and Ellen," which we'd just hate if anyone ever said about us.

Speaking of colorful language, didja read Jacob Epstein's visit to an underground poker club in last week's *New Yorker*? Its glossary of piquant poker terms yielded "quads" for four of a kind; "six tits" for three queens; *Siegfried & Roy* for two queens; and 'the nuts' for the highest possible hand on the table." And we thought gay bridge-players *Quicktricks* were salty!

To Sir with love

The authorized biography of late great thespian Sir John Gielgud by Sheridan Morley is newly out from Simon & Schus-



One-time cottager Sir John Gielgud

ter, and the good news is that the mammoth life-history does not stint on discussing Gielgud's homosexual life. In the '40s, Gielgud "contented himself with occasional cottaging (random homosexual pickups involving strangers) around the public rest rooms of Chelsea and Westminster, depending as often as not on the kindness of strangers, and thereby falling into a sexual pattern that was, in barely 10 years' time, to bring about the greatest crisis of his personal and professional life."

Morley also reveals British actor Sir Ralph Richardson as initially "very uneasy about John's homosexuality; only a few seasons earlier, when Olivier had suggested for *Othello* that it might be rather clever to play *lago* gay, Richardson had simply and wordlessly left the theater for two entire days, thereby conveying the unmistakable message that he wasn't getting involved in anything like that, even onstage."

But by 1953, Richardson and Sir Laurence Olivier were "feeling uneasy" about Gielgud's omission from the knighthood honors. "Both actor-knights put the case to Churchill, who overcame whatever official doubts there might have been about Gielgud's reasonably well-known, if still never publicly acknowledged, homosexuality."

Britain's angry young men were still outspokenly homophobic. Playwright John Osborne: "The first thing that struck me about the London stage was its domination at every level by puffs." Drama critic Kenneth Hurren kvetched about parties "at which there were more fag-ends walking around the rooms than in the ashtrays." Look back with anger, indeed.

Pew charitable trust

From "Welcome to My Pew," Rex Reed's copious Liza Minnelli wedding suck-up in the *New York Observer*: "Forget about the \$4,600 soup tureens [Liza registered at Tiffany.] A few nights before the wedding, Liza invited three friends over. They climbed over a pile of Tiffany boxes, then sat on the floor and ate Chinese takeout from paper plates." Careful not to ruin their nails, of course.

On the wisdom of Liza marrying yet another show-biz homosexual, the "event organizer" named David Gest, Reed tips his cynical hand: "She needed money. He needed an entrée to her A-list. Call it *Let's Make a Deal*. Or call it love."

Here's Rex spotting yawn-inducing celebs at the church: "There's Andy Williams! 'Where?' 'Sitting on the aisle with the gray hair.' 'God, he's aged.'"

Family beat: "Waving from the first row were one of her stepmothers, society duenna Denise Minnelli Hale, who'd flown in

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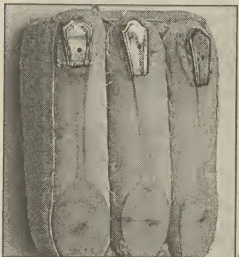
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Powerful and beautiful work

SF art galleries in March

by Will Shank

Inside 49 Geary Street, an elevator label whose font doesn't quite match the others identifies the new boy in town, Gregory Lind, whose gallery opened on the fifth floor last month with a strong inaugural show of *Ten Artists from Provincetown*, featuring 10 artists with roots in Cape Cod. Especially powerful is the sculpture of Janice Redman,



Janice Redman's *Three in a Bed*

whose play with transparency of fabrics and the objects semi-hidden beneath them recalls the early work of Bruce Conner; and the gorgeous blurred flower C-prints ("love letters of a brief yet passionate love affair") of local pho-



Yarmus' *Untitled (Autumn Rose)*

tographer Frank Yarmus. The show continues through April 26.

A number of other exhibitions are about to close to make way for new shows opening on the First Thursday in April. Among these are a retrospective of Italian-American painter John Grillo, closing at the Museo ItaloAmericano at Building C, Fort Mason this Saturday, March 30. Coincidentally also a longtime resident of Cape Cod, the octogenarian Grillo helped curator emeritus Bob Whyte to organize the exhibition. His abstractions from the mid-'40s recall the surrealist swirls of Picabia or Matta, and also reflect his time spent during that era with California School of Fine Arts (now the San Francisco Art Institute) instructors such as David Park and Clay Spohn. Mentored by Hans Hofmann after

moving East, Grillo went through a brilliantly-hued geometric period as well. And, like Diebenkorn, he moved from abstract into figurative work later in his career, but his late work lacks the energy of the '40s paintings. There is, however, the occasional exception, such as the large-scale drawing *Charcoal Tango* (1986), in which a straight artist toys with androgynous images of same-sex dancers.

Pushpin logic

Paule Anglim has installed new work by Rigo 02, the Portuguese-born artist whose name changes with the year. He is best-known for his larger-than-life murals around town (*SKY/GROUND* on an architectural wall at Third and Mission, or his *ONE TREE* at the freeway ramp at Ninth and Brannan, for example.) His new work is a throwback to his earlier use of pushpins to form a Lego kind of 2-D, 3-D portrait, with the same precision of his murals, which are like gigantic commercial graphics. Studies for the portraits, which show the artist working out the value relationships in black-and-white, are installed near the "paintings." The gallery is dominated by an enormous, digitally-generated mural of a black-and-white moonscape with an armored rhinoceros. Closes March 30 at 14 Geary Street.

Also closing this Saturday at 49 Geary is *Transmogrified*, an installation of sculptures resembling surveillance devices, by Stephanie Syjuco at Haines Gallery. Handsome as sculptures, the brainless security monitors staring at each other in the corners of the gallery lack the irony of Julia Scher's actual surveillance detectors, for instance. I preferred her exquisite Iris prints from the series *Comparative Morphologies*, as seen last summer in *Lifelike* at New Langton Arts. They are witty, 19th-century-looking scientific diagrams on aged paper, of what turn out to be pieces of telephones and computers rather than dried biological specimens.

Bucheon Gallery in Hayes Valley has just opened a group show of artists working in a storytelling mode, called *Inspiring Narratives*. Among the works on display, by East Coast and West Coast artists, are the remarkable miniature artists' studios of New Yorker Joe Fig. His scale models of Clyfford Still and Barnett Newman at work in their studios are remarkable accomplishments on their own, and the photographs that Fig shoots of them (Newman viewed through a window in profile, pondering a minimalist painting, cigarette in hand) make them artful. The often-overlooked local painter M. Louise Stanley is represented by two whimsical works on canvas, including one inspired by an experience in a Barcelona gallery, when a very pregnant woman went into labor in a gallery full of carved Madonnas. The show continues through April 28 at 540 Hayes Street. ▼



Charcoal Tango (1986), part of the *Tango Series* by Italian-American painter John Grillo

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Thrills and chills

Jodie Foster seeks refuge in David Fincher's 'Panic Room'



Kristen Stewart and Jodie Foster cower in the new thriller *Panic Room*.

by David Lambie

In the new home-alone thriller *Panic Room*, Jodie Foster and newcomer Kristen Stewart play mother and daughter looking for upscale digs after ditching dad. Foster's character, Meg Altman, has the blank check of a good divorce settlement, and before you can say gay single parent, three floors of a newly vacant New York brownstone belong to Jodie and the kid. Now, whether Jodie is gay or not is none of our business — as she herself says in the March issue of *Premiere*, "I've always chosen not to talk about my personal life. It just kind of trivializes it when you see it in print." Whatever! It would have been better for audiences of *Panic Room* for Jodie to be cast as a lesbian mom, in order to offset the coldly efficient banality that lies at the heart of director David Fincher's storm-the-castle passion play.

It takes less than 15 minutes for most movie memories to click onto the obvious: *Panic Room* is a high-tech remake of *Wait Until Dark*, Terence Young's thrill-charged 1967 caper about a blind woman's successful attempt to stop three thugs from grabbing a heroin-filled doll left in her apartment by an absent boyfriend. Audrey Hepburn, never lovelier, slowly realizes that she's fallen for a slick line from a charming con man (Richard Crenna). So when the attack comes, it's not merely her home and life that are threatened, but a naive blind lady's ability to trust strangers and to live an independent life — not so bad a theme from a director most known for the early films in the James Bond canon (*Dr. No*, *From Russia With Love* and *Thunderball*). *Wait Until Dark* features one of the screen's scariest mood-swinging *tour de force* performances, from Alan Arkin, who slithers from charming to psychotic as easily and with less fuss

than most of us would switch from boxers to briefs. The film's climax, with the dying Arkin leaping out of the shadows at Hepburn, was a heart-stopper when first glimpsed at Radio City Music Hall, and I suspect the scene would play as well at the Castro.

High security

Panic Room forfeits a chance at a trust-shattered bond when the filmmakers fail to stage a cute meet between Jodie and the "good" bad guy, played with nicely-parsed hints of underlying decency by Forest Whitaker. Whitaker's character is a high-tech security expert who understands the ins and outs of the brownstone's hidden feature — a castle keep-like secret room that enables the owners to withstand outside threats, like the bunker-style Situation Room at the White House. Early on, it's established that Jodie and Whitaker are doing what they're doing for the sake of their kids — a betrayal on this level is great fuel for a thrill-a-minute movie ride.

Otherwise, *Panic Room* perfectly tracks *Dark*, with its abrasively annoying bad guy Jared Leto (Jack Weston in *Dark*), whose snivelly whining makes him a perfect target to be put out of his misery fast before the going gets tough. Mr. Nasty is country singer Dwight Yoakam, who goes ethnic (Raoul) with some panache, but never manages to massage our g spot (grossout sadism) as well as Arkin. Easy to spot that Raoul will be puppy chow by the end, and it won't be pretty.

Panic Room's trump card should Jodie, one tough and smart lady. She'd withstand global warming, a new Ice Age, or a more genetically virulent form of genital herpes. To make her Meg more audience-friendly, though, you need a chink in the armor, a believable degree of vulnerability, as is on display in her best films, *Taxi Driver*, *Five Corners* and *The Accused*. Instead, we get her version of Sigourney Weaver, say in *Alien III* (the Fincher-directed sequel).

When a suspense film is star-driven (as was *Wait Until Dark*), you have to savor the assault on the actor's screen persona and what it yields (the urbanity of Cary Grant shining through attacks of cropdusters and less-than-dignified tours of Lincoln's sinus cavities), or else discover an appealing flip-side to an actor's repertoire (the darker side of Jimmy Stewart that emerged with *Hitchcock*, or in the existential Westerns of Anthony Mann.) If there is a dyke-like quality to Jodie's screen presence (whether or not it's a reflection of life), then go with it and give her a female partner to defend, or conversely let the kid (whom we first glimpse as an appealingly androgynous skateboarding punkette) be the top and rescue Jodie. You can't let the needs of a star's ego pre-determine where the story has to go. Brad Pitt and Ed Norton left their star baggage behind and let us enjoy their textured and highly homoerotic take on their (Fincher-directed) *Fight Club* characters. The play's the thing — that's all they owe us. ▼

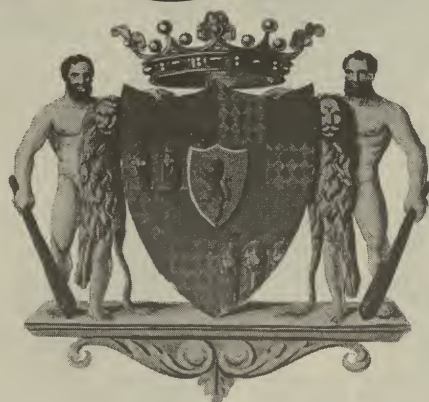
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Panic Room opens Friday.

Mississippi dreaming

'Big Bad Love' brings Debra Winger back to the screen

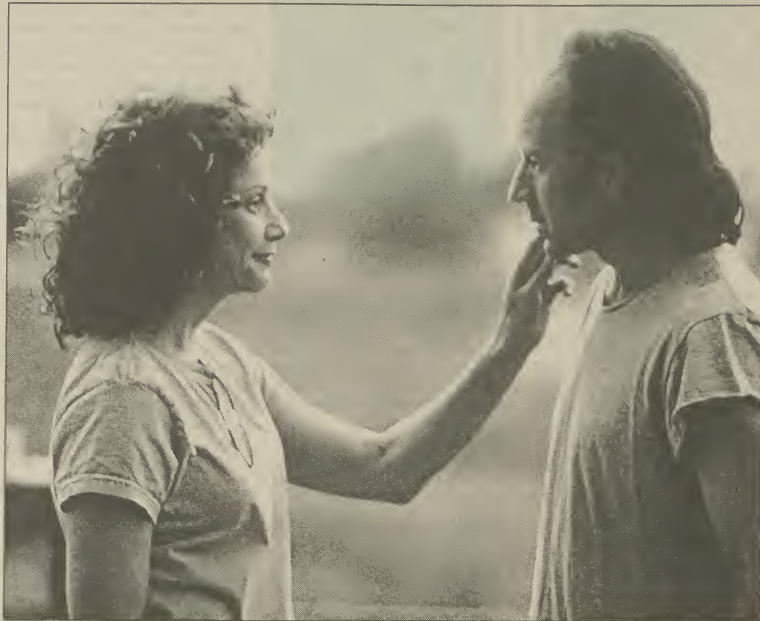
by David Lamble

Some dreams ruin being awake, if you know the difference; best not to." The answer to the riddle posed by that quote is contained in the very funny, very literate and ultimately haunting new film *Big Bad Love*, a first-time directing effort from actor Arliss Howard. The film also represents a return to the screen (she hates hearing it called a comeback) after a six-year absence by Howard's wife, actress Debra Winger.

As boozy writer Leon Barlow, Howard papers his bathroom with rejection letters, barely remembers to feed his mangy yeller dog, and drives his Mississippi mama (Angie Dickinson), ex-wife (Winger) and kids crazy wondering if he'll return home alive from his latest round of bar-hopping. Based on the short fiction of Larry Brown, *Big Bad Love* takes the oxymoron out of "literary film," shows that not all the great writers in Oxford, Mississippi are dead writers, and, as a screening buddy sighed, for a few sultry moments makes Rosanna Arquette appear like Sophia Loren.

One of the film's many charms is how many career revivals it hosts. Besides Arquette and Winger (watching these two dames chew up the screen with merely a fruit salad as a prop reminds one of the grand days when Walter Matthau could command our rapt attention chewing gum), there is the considerable pleasure of seeing Dickinson play one of the most formidable big mammas to stalk Faulkner country in the last half-century.

Howard himself continues to make good acting look all too easy. He's quoted in the production notes as claiming that "if properly hydrated, a movie actor spends more time urinating than he does acting." Needless to say, he doesn't fail to show us Leon taking a wicked piss. Back in the days when he seemed to be competing for "the best boyfriend" award opposite Jessica Lange (*Men Don't Leave*) or Goldie Hawn (*Criss-Cross*), Howard understood that the finest acting is often just good listening. In *Big Bad Love*, Howard's Leon plays the B-side of the record, allowing Winger and Dickinson to read him to filth for being the most useless kind of husband/son, whose only talents



Big Bad Love producer/co-star Debra Winger with director/co-star Arliss Howard: playing the B-side.

are writing down the misery he's caused others, housepainting, and the ability to find the coldest case of beer in the back of the cooler.

As an aspiring director, Howard has apprenticed under the best: Spielberg, Stone, Kubrick. "So when I wasn't pissing, I was watching." Like Spielberg, Howard surrealistically reimagines an ordinary landscape, and with the assistance of cinematographer Paul Ryan (whose early work included a documentary on Salvador Dali) performs the kind of magic on-screen that Sister Wendy ascribes to the painter Jackson Pollock. She suggests Pollock's 1953 canvas "The Deep" contains mysteries beyond what is visible, "perhaps the depths of the psyche."

Like James Wood's disgraced photojournalist Richard Boyle in Stone's *Salvador*, Howard creates an antihero seemingly beyond redemption, whose very professional failings draw us in. At one point, Leon receives a rejection letter for a story that was ever so close to publication. "No one here with the magazine could quite imagine what you meant by the title, 'White Girls With Black Asses.'"

As with the best of Kubrick, Howard invests Leon's feckless journey with a nice satirical brush. As Arquette's Velma draws to Leon upon his release from the county pokey, "Did you get raped in jail?"

Leon: "Met a couple of nice guys. Never went anywhere." ▼

Big Bad Love opens Friday, March 29.

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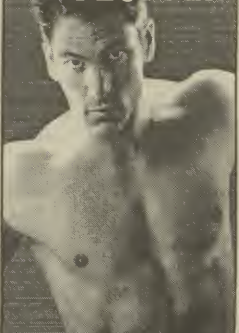
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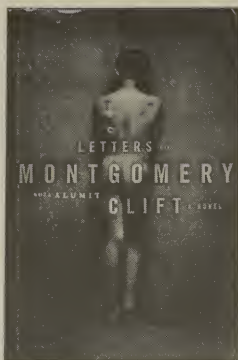
Letters to Montgomery Clift by Noël Alumi; MacAdam/Cage Publishing, \$25

Like Saul Bellow's Herzog, the main character in Noël Alumi's novel, *Letters to Montgomery Clift*, is a compulsive letter-writer. Unlike Bellow's world-weary professor, however, Alumi's Bong Bong Luwad is a young man who is just starting out in life, and who does so without the foundation of a home or family. The child of Filipino parents whose lives are destroyed by the Marcos regime, Bong Bong is an exile, shipped off by his mother to live with an aunt in the relative safety of the United States. It is Bong Bong's separation from everything that he knows that sets him upon a long and painful quest to learn who he is.

Letters to Montgomery Clift is Alumi's first novel, and like many first novels, it is a classic *Bildungsroman*—a tale of that often painful journey from childhood to adulthood. It includes many of the stock trappings of its form: the naive yet beautifully truthful voice of the child, the poignant yearning for lost parents, a set of misadventures with memorable characters, and the machinations of an evil guardian—in this case, Bong Bong's Auntie Yuna. Living in a strange new place (Los Angeles) with his equally strange Auntie Yuna, Bong Bong is eager to find something to believe in. Auntie Yuna's bizarre Catholic mythology offers a kind of answer. "Dead relatives are the best people to ask things," she tells young Bong Bong. "Better than God. Dead relatives already know you, and you know them." The best way to reach them, she tells him, is with letters. "Letters have to be to saints or dead relatives.

No one else. If you write to someone else, the spirits will think we do not trust them."

Bong Bong finds a saint of his own to offer his letters to—the handsome, sensitive actor Montgomery Clift. The young boy becomes fascinated with Clift after watching him in late-night movies. He soon amasses an almost scholarly knowledge of Clift's life and films. Each chapter begins with one of his letters to the dead actor, and these become an important device for moving the story forward. It's always difficult for an author to assume the voice of a child, but Alumi's use of the letters allows him to reveal Bong Bong's development poignantly and also amusingly. Bong Bong eventually comes to realize what his idolization of Clift means in terms of his sexuality, but the letters reveal his early, somewhat awkward glimmerings of erotic awareness. When Bong Bong and his Aunt hear their new downstairs neighbor in a loud



love bout with one of his girlfriends, Bong Bong's questions prompt Auntie Yuna to snap, "Ignore it. The man downstairs is evil." Intrigued, Bong Bong hides in the laundry room to get a glimpse of "Mr. Evil." He does, and is so entranced by what he sees that he writes in his next letter, "Mr. Clift, evil is real good-looking."

Park view

The charming Mr. Evil, "I," is

not evil at all. He proves to be a positive, albeit passing presence in Bong Bong's life, and in his own way he helps Bong Bong escape the clutches of his selfish, abusive aunt. Bong Bong has few positive male presences in his life, and all of these leave before he can establish a meaningful relationship with them. So Montgomery Clift becomes even more important to him. In one key scene, Bong Bong visits a park with his school and has the first of his many visions of Clift, seeing the actor briefly off in the distance. The hallucination lasts only an instant, but Bong Bong realizes from that moment on that "my life would never be the same." The visions continue, become more frequent and intense, and follow Bong Bong as he moves from foster home to foster home, becomes a young man, and also becomes more American, assuming the new name "Bob."

Throughout the novel, Bong Bong's overriding concern is to find his lost mother and father. When he begins to grasp the truth of what has happened to them, the reality of it is too difficult for him. His visions of Montgomery

Clift become obsessive. He meets men and has sex with them, but can only do so if these lovers morph into Clift in his mind. He also develops strange, compulsive and self-destructive habits. His life begins to mirror Clift's—he becomes a movie extra, and he even has a motorcycle accident that seems to mimic Clift's disfiguring, and nearly deadly, car crash. Bong Bong ends up physically and psychologically broken, but this allows him to rebuild himself and, ultimately, to find answers to the questions he has been trying to answer all his life.

Letters to Montgomery Clift is an engaging story of a young gay man's search for identity. Though the plot sometimes seems to rely on improbable coincidences, it is a story told effectively and movingly, an intriguing take on the American Dream. ▼

Noel Alumi reads from his novel at A Different Light Bookstore on Thursday, April 18, and at the East Wind Bookstore in Berkeley on Saturday, April 20.

Ghalib Dhalla

◀ Arts cover

servants and maids are African. Now as he has sex with a black man, he thinks: I am having sex with this man who should be sweeping my floor, and instead he is coming inside me!"

Race is something that all immigrants have to confront upon coming to America. Dhalla, landing in Los Angeles as a starry-eyed 19-year-old, was no different. He expected he would find true love as soon as he set foot in America. Or if Mr. Right was not waiting at the airport, at least there would be lots of sex. He admits, "I read a lot of Jackie Collins novels. I had *Hollywood Wives* as my manual and tour guide." That bubble obviously did not last too long, as Dhalla got on the treadmill of West Hol-

lywood gay life even as he worked in a bank by day.

He remembers feeling desperately out of place in a world where standards of beauty were measured in six-packs and Copper-tone tans with blue eyes. "I'd need to drink a few cocktails just to stand in a bar," he recalls. "And if someone did acknowledge me, I'd avert my eyes, because I just didn't have the self-esteem."

Of course, there's an expatriate gay Indian community in LA, and Dhalla got very involved with it, even volunteering for a South Asian AIDS organization. "The connection was like finding an extended family," he remembers. "In some ways, it was addictive. I had been deprived of it for so long, I just ran towards it, abandoning everything else." The thrill of finding people like himself—gay, brown and deriving their emo-

tional cues in life from campy Hindi songs—was intoxicating. But Dhalla also knew there was a danger he could end up cocooning himself in a little India in the middle of Los Angeles, much as his protagonist Ali does for a while.

In fact, there is an awful lot to Ali that resembles his creator. And Ali is not always a flattering portrait—his love life is hell, and his life in general is pretty messy. "A first book is always intensely personal," admits Dhalla. "After all, you should write what you know about." But he wanted to make sure that, even as he created probably the first South Asian gay immigrant protagonist in fiction, he did not sugarcoat him into a role model for generations of queer South Asians to come.

Dhalla feels he would be cheating his readers if he were anything but honest. After all, this book was his own catharsis. Writing on an ancient Macintosh during his lunch hour, all Dhalla wanted to

do was put down a set of vignettes that would give him some understanding of who he was. "I was an Indian not born in India. I loved Hindi films, yet was embarrassed about who I was. It was almost a relief when someone looked at me and thought I was Latino. I realized I needed to let all the toxic, ecstatic emotions come out."

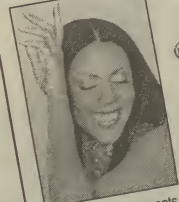
The result is *Ode to Lata*, which has now been optioned for a film. Dhalla isn't worried how his book will look on film. He says excitedly, "I just know I'll be really proud to be in the audience and see an Indian gay man on the screen and hear lots of great Hindi film music!" ▼

Ghalib Dhalla reads from *Ode to Lata* at A Different Light Bookstore at 489 Castro Street on Saturday, March 30 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (415) 431-0891.

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THEATRE & MUSIC

Capturing the past

Naxos Nostalgia series gets high marks

by Jason Serinus

Bargain label Naxos continues to scoop the market with outstanding reissues of lighter fare. Their Nostalgia series, mastered by producer David Lennick, wins high marks for its quality. Here are some outstanding recent issues:

Favourites Vol. 1 – Richard Tauber (Naxos)

No tenor better captures the Austro-German spirit of the interwar era than the irreplaceable Richard Tauber. Justly famed for his Mozart, Tauber is equally remembered as the only singer capable of turning sheer schmaltz into high art.

Tauber delighted in his voice as much as he loved the act of singing. There is an extraordinary

ease to his vocalism; music seems to flow from his throat in a stream of unparalleled joy. Although he lacked a high C, his B was absolutely solid, the voice virile and firm throughout. His gifts included the ability to sing *sotto voce* and float high notes in sweet falsetto.

The tenor first met operetta composer Franz Lehár in 1924, when he was chosen to perform in Lehár's *Frasquita*. Their partnership became so indispensable that Lehár began to call his new arias for the tenor "Tauberlied."

In addition to eight Lehár tracks recorded 1927-1939 (two of which are conducted by Lehár), this marvelous disc includes 10 other recordings of lighter fare; among them are treasured versions of Stolz's "Im prater blühn wieder die bäume," Strauss' "Tales from the Vienna Woods" conducted by Erich Wolfgang Korn-

gold, and Siczynski's "Wien, du stadt meiner träume." The accompaniments are as priceless as the singing.

A Room With a View, Mad Dogs and Englishmen – Noël Coward (Naxos)

Noël Coward, in some ways the English equivalent of America's Cole Porter, was born in Teddington, Middlesex in 1899. Dubbed "the master" for his abilities as a playwright, lyricist, arranger, director, singer-actor, short-story writer and attempted novelist, Coward's work is distinguished by his occasionally wicked wit and penchant for satire.

Coward's genius especially shone in his own performances of works for musical comedy. Here, his middle-class, quintessentially English, intentionally mannered vocalism, at times proffered with a slight curl of the lip, underscored pretense by cutting right to — when not intentionally cutting through — the heart of his music.

Coward made his first stage appearance at theater school at age seven, with his actual theatrical debut coming at 12. At 15, he was already writing and performing his own material. 1923 saw him co-starring with Gertrude Lawrence. By 1925, he had five plays running simultaneously in London.

Volume 1 contains all Coward's recordings from 1928-1931;



Volume 2 extends through January, 1936. Most of the selections are by Coward, but we are also offered Robin-Grainger's "Love in Bloom" and Kern-Hammerstein's "We Were so Young." The singer is occasionally joined by others, including the inimitable Gertrude Lawrence, for whom he wrote many of his greatest songs.

Vol. 1 includes an eight-minute medley of selections from *Cavalcade*, Coward's 1931 play that was filmed by Fox in 1933 and made into a multi-million-dollar spectacle; another track from *Cavalcade* and the spoken prologue are also featured. The disc ends with a 9-minute medley of assorted Coward gems.

Vol. 2 begins with one of the master's most famous songs, "Mad Dogs and Englishmen," from his *Words and Music*. Yet another 9-minute medley, which includes seven selections from *Bitter Sweet*, is among the gems of the second disc. If you ever have a need to feel just a little bit superior, Coward is the man to turn to.

Parlez-Moi D'Amour – Lucienne Boyer (Naxos)

One's first thought upon hearing cabaret singer Lucienne Boyer's signature song, her 1930 recording of Lenoir's "Parlez-moi



d'amour," might be, "What a curious, mousy little voice." But feelings do change, and often quickly. Indeed, as the music continues, Boyer achieves a performance so touching, so absolutely right, that all reservations are swept aside.

In his liner notes, Peter Dempsey acknowledges that none of Boyer's subsequent recordings made quite the impact of her Lenoir hit. Nonetheless, the disc's 18 selections, recorded 1926-1933, establish that Boyer was a gifted cabaret singer of stature.

Boyer was born near Montparnasse, Paris, in 1901. After her father was killed in the war in 1914, she and her mother worked side by side in a French munitions factory, where her gifts as an entertainer were first recognized.

After the war, Boyer worked in a millinery while serving as a model for many avant-garde painters. Working her way into the theater, she became known for appearances in various cabarets and revues. Composer-guitarist Vincent Scotto penned several of her early successes, including "Youp et youp" and the poignant "Sans toi," both contained in this anthology. Fame was achieved via Broadway appearances in 1927, after which Boyer returned to

next page ►

Will Bond is avant-gardist Robert Wilson in Anne Bogart's *Bob*.

Being Robert Wilson

'Bob' at the Magic Theatre

by Richard Dodds

The avant-garde director Robert Wilson lets himself and his brethren off easily. "Most artists don't understand what they are doing," he says. "I don't think they have to." It is the audience's job to sort it all out, he adds. Well, thanks a lot.

The above quote is heard in *Bob*, a one-man play described as "a dramatic portrait inspired by Robert Wilson." Anne Bogart, who conceived and directed the show, is also one to scramble traditional theatrical constructs, and so we have avant-garde squared in *Bob*. Audiences, start your engines.

Created by Bogart's SITI Company, *Bob* arrives via the Magic Theatre following performances in several other cities. All the words heard from the Cowell stage have been uttered by Wilson, but they have been pulled from the linear forms of language and turned into an accompaniment to Bogart's visual interpretations.

"My work is a mystery to me," says the Wilson character, a simple enough thought that appar-

ently becomes more meaningful if it is accompanied by a series of weird hand gestures. Will Bond, who plays Wilson, also pushes a table around the stage and occasionally climbs beneath it.

Bob probably works best if you just let the words, gestures, flashes of light, and crashing music wash over you. And even then, it's best if you're a performance-art kind of person. I guess you can tell I'm not, at least not as imagined by Bogart. Ninety minutes can seem kinda long when you're not buying into the director's style.

Obviously, there are those who do, and perhaps also those who think they should. But as Wilson said, it's up to the audience to define what the artist is attempting. For this theatergoer, *Bob* is a paean to another artist who thinks along the same lines. Are they your lines? All I can say is they weren't my lines. ▼

Bob will have final performances at the Cowell Theatre, Fort Mason, on March 28-31. Tickets are \$22-\$47, with \$10 for student/senior rush tickets. Call 441-8822.

Mama said we should go out and play in the barn...

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Exposing themselves

Chat with a couple of B-52's, Cindy Wilson and Keith Strickland

by Gregg Shapiro

The new two-disc release *Nude on the Moon: The B-52's Anthology* (Rhino) begins with "52 Girls" and ends with one woman, "Debbie," as in Debbie Harry of Blondie, who helped pave the way for bands like the B-52's. In-between, this career retrospective follows the band's out-of-this-world trajectory from "Planet Claire" through "Revolution Earth." Their best-loved tunes ("Roam," "Love Shack," "Rock Lobster," "Private Idaho") sound great alongside rarities (live versions of "Quiche Lorraine" and "Whammy Kiss," a new edit of "Ain't It a Shame," Moby's mix of "Is That You, Mo-Dean?") and other classics ("Party Out of Bounds," "Queen of Las Vegas.") In a recent interview, Cindy Wilson and Keith Strickland told me what it's like to be a B-52.

Gregg Shapiro: The B-52's played their first show as a band on Valentine's Day, 1977. How does it feel to have been in a band for almost 25 years?

Cindy Wilson: Well, of course, I was just a teenager!

Keith Strickland: It's very surreal. It doesn't feel like 25 years. I have no idea how it's supposed to feel! We didn't really start out as a band.

CW: It was in Athens [Georgia] in '77. We were just trying to make our own fun. There wasn't



Dress to impress: Fred Schneider, Kate Pierson, Cindy Wilson and Keith Strickland are the B-52's.

really much to do in those days, except for disco! We were trying to be shockers. We were playing for a friend's party. We had "Planet Claire" already written, and a song called "Killer Bees" that I

don't think we ever worked up, it was pretty funny. "Rock Lobster" and "Lava," too. It was just a few songs, but it bowled everybody over. Kate [Pierson] and I came out with these big, white, fake-fur

things on our heads that looked like bouffants. Fred [Schneider] was all camped out, and Ricky [Wilson] and Keith. We had the best time. It was an old Victorian house, and everybody danced so hard that the floor was bouncing like a trampoline. That kind of gave us the bug, and we continued from there.

Was there one person in the band who was in charge of shopping for what you'd wear, or did you all go together?

CW: Oh, no, it was hodge-podge. We shopped at thrift stores! We didn't have much money back then, and that was the best source of any kind of great, wild wear that you could get. Back then, you could still find things from the '40s, '50s and '60s. Everything was about five cents!

The B-52's had a significant gay following from the start.

KS: There's a sensibility that we all shared. It was a gay and gay-friendly group of friends, a mixture of everybody. We didn't really think of it, at the time, as being camp. It was finding the absurdity in the trash aesthetic. I kind of thought of it as Pop Art, taking an object out of context. I suppose it's something that is part of gay culture, and everybody picked up on it.

CW: It was just natural. We have a large following of different types of people, from kids to the gay crowd to people who made music in the '60s. We've always supported gay rights and special-interest stuff, too.

It's been only three years since the release of *Time Capsule*, the single-disc B-52's hits compilation. Why now the double-disc *Nude on the Moon*?

KS: It just sort of happened out of the blue. Rhino came to us. It was a coincidence that our 25th anniversary was coming up.

CW: Rhino wanted to put out the definitive anthology. There are a lot of things on it that didn't make it onto *Time Capsule*. This will be the superior one. It's got a Moby mix of "Is That You, Mo-Dean?" It's got a mix of "Queen of Las Vegas" from *Mesopotamia* that has never been on anything before in this particular version. "Whammy Kiss" came out on a B-side in England, it's never been heard in the US before. There's a great live version of "Quiche Lorraine" that was on the PETA benefit album. There are lots of never-before-seen photos that we dug out of our closets! Michael Azerrad, from *Rolling Stone* magazine, wrote wonderful liner notes for us.

To me, the first two albums were more arty, performance art almost. Then the drum machine was invented and we were trying to get a more modern feel, playing with that through *Whammy*. Actually, *Whammy*'s great. It sounds a little cheesy sometimes, but we're playing *Whammy* these days, and it's really fun to do live again.

From its inception, the B-52's worked with an amazing array of producers, including Chris Blackwell, David Byrne, Nile Rogers, and Don Was. Were they willing to let you guys be the B-52's, or were they trying to change the band's sound?

KS: They definitely had a very oddball band to work with! We weren't like session musicians. We had created this entity, and they had to respect that. They brought to it a sound and effects, and sometimes rearranged parts of a song to make it more cohesive. They all had a stamp on it.

Ricky Wilson's death in 1985 was one of the first AIDS deaths in the music world. What kind of an impact do you think it had?

KS: Wow. I think it was part of the whole process of everyone realizing that this was something affecting all of us. Everyone around that time was losing someone, so many people were dying. Ricky died the same month as Rock Hudson. It was a very heavy and difficult time, needless to say.

Is there a new full-length album of B-52's songs forthcoming?

CW: It's slow in coming. In the old days, we used to live together, and it was easy! Now, everybody's kind of spread out and doing their own thing, so it's not as easy. I think it could happen, maybe in a year or two. ▼

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Naxos Nostalgia

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Paris to become an established figure in Parisian cabaret. Subsequent tours through the United States and South America in the mid-to-late-'30s increased her fame.

In 1939, Boyer married her second husband, cabaret singer Jacques Pills. Though Pills later deserted her for Edith Piaf, Boyer's career continued to flourish

through the 1960s. As late as 1976, partnered by her daughter Jacqueline, Boyer sang at the Paris Olympia and made a number of TV appearances. She died in Paris in 1983.

Although Lucienne Boyer makes the artistic choice not to probe as deeply as Piaf, hers is a distinctive instrument with the sound of Paris ringing through it. Her artistry, as representative of interwar Paris as Tauber's was of Austria, and Coward's of London, is sure to delight. ▼

FILM

Jeanne Moreau, art-house diva

by Tavo Amador

In the era before multiplexes, independent theatres thrived in leading American cities. These art-houses often specialized in foreign films. Audiences were small, and in this milieu, Jeanne Moreau (b. 1928) reigned supreme, earning critical accolades matched by few actresses. One of her best films, *La Baie des Anges* (1962), plays the Castro Theatre March 29-April 4.

She seemed quintessentially

French, but her mother was an English chorus girl who wed a Parisian bartender. Parents divorced in 1939, and Jeanne stayed with papa, studying at the *Paris Conservatoire*. The *Comédie Française* offered Veroutchka in *A Month in the Country*, which led to her film debut, suffering *A Dernier Amant* (1949). She then alternated between the stage and movies. Few of the latter were noticed, although her prostitute's daughter who is raped by *L'Homme de ma Vie* when he learns about *maman* created a stir.

She joined the *Theatre National de Paris*, becoming a star in the comedy *L'Heure Eblouissante* (1953), playing a tart.

Subsequent films, even those starring Jean Marais and Jean Gabin, were unremarkable. Her stage work was better: a successful Eliza in Shaw's *Pygmalion*, and an acclaimed Maggie in a French version of Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955).

Onscreen she played ingenues and hookers without making a mark, but Louis Malle saw her potential. He cast her as a weary, cheating, murderous wife in *Ascenseur pour l'Echafaud*, his first feature. She had *Trois Jours à Vivre* then played another wanton adulteress in *Le Dos au Mur*, had a stage success as a hooker serving *La Bonne Soupe*, and received international attention as a modern Emma Bovary in Malle's erotic *Les Amants*, all 1958. Roger Vadim made her a contemporary Madame de Merteuil in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (1959). That same year, she had an unbilled bit in Truffaut's *Les Quatres Cents Coups*. Atoning for so much sin, she played a nun during the French Revolution in *Les Dialogues des Carmélites*; real punishment came as one of Martin Ritt's *Five Branded Women* (all 1960).

Dark night

Acclaim returned with her bored wife understandably obsessed with Jean Paul Belmondo in Peter Brook's version of Marguerite Duras' *Moderato Cantabile*. In Antonioni's dark *La Notte* (1961), she and Marcello Mastroianni memorably depicted a collapsing marriage; for Godard, she had another unbilled part in *Une Femme est Une Femme*, then Truffaut gave her *Jules et Jim*, as the woman best friends both love. Her Catherine was warm, funny, and mesmerizing. For Orson Welles she endured *The Trial* (1962), as Anthony Perkins' frightened neighbor.

That same year, Joseph Losey made her *Eve*, a confusing film

about a courtesan. For Jacques Demy she visited *La Baie des Anges* (Bay of Angels), as a very blonde compulsive gambler. Hollywood made her a victim in Carl Foreman's deadly all-star World War II epic *The Victors*. She ended 1963 with a cameo in Malle's *Le Feu Follet*. In 1964, she and Belmondo were in a disappointing comedy, *Peau de Banane*, but Luis Buñuel had her write *Le Journal d'une Femme de Chambre*, excellent in this fascinating remake of Jean Renoir's 1949 film.

Hollywood again beckoned; in 1964, she and Burt Lancaster boarded *The Train*, a good thriller. She joined Rex Harrison, Ingrid Bergman, Shirley MacLaine, Alain Delon, George C. Scott, Art Carney, and Omar Shariff riding *The Yellow Rolls Royce*, awful but a great guilty pleasure and a hit. In 1965, she was *Mata Hari*, then she and Brigitte Bardot were showgirls in revolutionary Mexico in Malle's disappointing *Viva Maria!* Surprisingly, Bardot outshone her.

For Welles she was a sordid Doll Tearsheet to his Falstaff ringing *Chimes at Midnight* (1966), then Tony Richardson called her Genet's *Mademoiselle* and had her tempt a *Sailor from Gibraltar* (1967). These two failed, and critics wondered what all the shouting had been about.

Her next batch were uneven: practicing *Le Plus Vieux Métier du Monde* (1967), as *Great Catherine*, and Truffaut's *The Bride Wore Black*, his so-so homage to Alfred Hitchcock (both 1968). For Welles she told *The Immortal Story* (1968), gripping as a woman hired for sex. She played a murderous lesbian in 1969's *Le Corps de Diane*, which got no American bookings. She toured France in a song-and-dance act, then in Hollywood played a warm hooker fascinating Lee Marvin's *Monte Walsh* (1970). She was herself finding *Alex in Wonderland* before returning to France as a moll in *Comptes à Rebours*, then displaying *L'Humeur Vagabonde*. Better

was a television special, *Le Petit Theatre de Jean Renoir*, in which she sang (all 1971).

As *Cher Louise* she was a teacher in love with a youth, then *Nathalie Granger*, Duras' narcolepsy-inducing film about two introspective women. Understandably, she fled to Brazil as *Joanna La Francesca*, a madam who marries a plantation owner (1973), and in Canada announced *Je t'Aime* (1974).

Jardin party

She took supporting roles in *La Race des Seigneurs* with Delon, *Les Valseuses* with Gerard Depardieu, *La Jardin Qui Bascule*, *Souveniers de France*, and the bizarre sci-fi *Hu-Man* with Terence Stamp (all 1975). On stage she failed as Wedekend's *Lulu*, but recovered on screen, playing a movie star in *Lumière* (1976), her directorial debut. Her charm recalled *Jules et Jim*, and critics once again raved. That same year she met Delon's Mr. Klein, and for Hollywood essayed a film queen in *The Last Tycoon*, a dull version of Fitzgerald's novel. With *L'Adolescente* (1979), she returned to directing, earning superlative notices.

More unseen films followed before an 18-month Paris stage run in *L'Intox*. Of her subsequent movies, only two attracted attention: Losey's *La Truite* (1981) and Fassbinder's *Querelle* — as the madam who sleeps with the young beauty, his only heterosexual encounter (1982). In 1985, a planned Broadway debut in a revival of Williams' *The Night of the Iguana* closed out of town. Except for *La Femme Nikita* (1991), most of her recent movies have had limited international releases, although European television has kept her busy. In 2001, she played Duras in *Cet amour-là*. Interviews reveal a witty, passionate woman fascinated by life. Her professional choices often seem odd, yet she is capable of great surprises, so another landmark performance in a good film is a strong possibility. ▼



Jeanne Moreau and Claude Mann in *Bay of Angels*: thrillseekers.

Bay of Angels

◀ Arts cover

night. He heads for the Riviera and, naturally, visits the casino at Nice. There he meets Jackie, and she thinks he brings her luck — they both win big at roulette. They celebrate by having a lavish dinner at an elegant restaurant. She spends the night with him.

Gambling has resulted in Jackie's divorce — not because of her losses, she says, but because her wealthy ex-husband was jealous of her passion for roulette. She lost custody of her son, and has few friends who will put up with her constant pleas for money coupled with broken promises to give up her addiction. She explains that being in the casino is like being in church — she feels more alive there than anywhere else. Yet, when we watch her play, she seems anything but vital.

Jean is both horrified and fascinated by her. He falls in love, becomes possessive, tries to set them both free of gambling, but she resists. Their relationship falls and rises with their luck at the tables. They buy a car, new clothes, take a suite at the Hotel de Paris in Monte Carlo, but lose again and are unable to get her jewels out of hock.

The tension in the film mounts as Jean struggles to save Jackie and keep himself from becoming a hopeless addict, while she clings to her compulsion, refusing to give it up, although often realizing she is throwing away happiness in the process. Like the number that

comes up after spinning the roulette wheel, the ending is both surprising and believable.

Moreau, with lots of very blonde hair, is splendid as Jackie. She is charming, warm, desperate, rueful, manipulative, and natural. She makes it clear that her addiction has nothing to do with money — it's about the thrill of winning, about the mystery of the numbers, about risk. Her Jackie is so attractive, so honest about herself and so dishonest about her hopes to quit, that we share Jean's desperation to save her. Moreau reveals Jackie's self-loathing without self-pity, and impresses with her gallantry. It's a remarkable performance without a trace of bravura.

The youthful Mann's Jean is equally compelling. Looking like a cross between Alain Delon and Jean Paul Belmondo, he is simultaneously callow, naive, and wary. At times he becomes manipulative, determined to pay whatever price he must to keep Jackie; then he recoils, aware that he must reclaim his life and save Jackie as well. Not until the very end do we discover whether he succeeds or fails.

Pierre Cardin designed Moreau's chic wardrobe, and Michel Legrand composed the often tinny score, which matches the movie's jarring themes. Demy, who also wrote the screenplay and is best remembered for the sunny *Umbrellas de Cherbourg*, keeps things moving, eliciting the fine performances, and, in a mere 89 minutes, capturing the horror and appeal that gambling — or any form of uncontrolled passion — can have. ▼

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Monster's ball

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Even before the Oscars, it was celebrity March madness on TV. First there was Rosie's big announcement, not just that she's queer (no surprise to most of us), but that she was coming out to make a statement about gay parenting. A certain poignancy to that revelation and the sheer ordinariness of her plight made the interview with Diane Sawyer more than just another self-serving tell-all. Dressed like the leprechaun she is to most American viewers, Rosie proclaimed with the girl-next-door earnestness that has made her America's sweetheart: "This is what a gay parent looks like." Sweet, but not cloying. And her mission deserves support.

Then the original *Baywatch* babe, Pamela Anderson, revealed to *Entertainment Tonight* that she has hepatitis C. Surprisingly, that news generated a great deal more spin-off controversy than Rosie's big reveal. Four million people in the US have hepatitis C; it's four times more prevalent than HIV/AIDS. Anderson said she came out about her illness to get people to realize how common it is and how easily transmissible.

Anderson's declaration and her claim to have contracted the disease from former husband Tommy Lee, late of Motley Crue and well-known drugstore cowboy, spawned counterstatements from Lee, who disavowed having the disease and said Anderson was hurting their children (over whom there have been custody battles) by making such public statements. Anderson sticks by her story.

Other celebrities to have contracted hepatitis C include David

Crosby, Mickey Mantle and Naomi Judd. Mantle died after receiving a liver transplant; Crosby had a liver transplant several years ago, and his health has been quixotic since. Judd quit touring for six years, but her health is currently good. Anderson is being treated on an outpatient basis in LA, but hasn't elaborated.

ABC's *Good Morning America* led with the story the morning after *ET* broke it. Sawyer and fill-in co-host Robyn Roberts discussed the impact of the disease at length; Roberts said that the disease had "touched" her own family. *GMA*



Lavender Tube

regular Dr. Nancy Snyderman gave a safe-sex lecture in which she said be smart, folks, you just can't have casual unprotected sex anymore, HIV/AIDS isn't the only disease out there. Snyderman urged everyone from "our generation" (35 to 55) to get tested, as the disease shows few symptoms until it advances.

Though *ET* broke the story and *GMA* followed up, all the tabloid shows have been taking on the subject since, to which we say good. Though rumor has it Anderson broke the news because she was about to be outed, the impact of her declaration has been to raise awareness. There is no cure for hepatitis C, and its effects are debilitating and deadly. The three most common forms of transmission are shared needles, tattooing and unprotected sex. New livers are hard to come by for non-celebrities. We usually find Snyderman just a tad smug, but on this we agree: get tested.

Liza with a lisp

Between O'Donnell and Anderson came a little celebrity blast from the past. Liza Minnelli tied the knot to yet another closet queen. Like mother, like daughter. Liza and her new hubby, the ambiguously gay David Gest (pronounced with a lisp; he looks sooo Paul Anka), appeared everywhere from *Larry King Live* to *ET*. Liza says the two would love to adopt (as in children) and are "thinking about it right now." We loved Judy and we love Liza, but dear girl, can this marriage really last? We don't want to see you back with Betty Ford, now do we?

As for the Oscars, well, we love a good looning party, and we must say the crowd looked swell as they always do (yes, we watch for the outfits, doesn't everyone?) And when can we expect Jodie Foster

to come out? Probably about the same time we can expect her to be in a *good* movie. It was good to see Whoopie out of the middle of *Hollywood Squares*. As usual, we enjoyed Barbara Walters' (she's looking mahvelous, isn't she?) celebrity interview hour. Though we are sooo over Sarah Jessica Parker (changing hair color every five minutes simply isn't going to make you look pretty, dear), we admit we still have a hankering for Tom Cruise, he of the can-you-believe-it sexuality. And after seeing the superb *Monster's Ball*, we have achieved renewed respect for Best Actress Halle Berry.



Halle Berry told all to B. Walters.

Berry told all to BW, including her flirtations with suicide, her deep depressions, and her long list of abusive boyfriends. While we loathe the idea of any woman getting smacked around, we appreciate Berry's admission. Perhaps it might send some women to seek help. Isn't this, after all, the purpose of these celebrity revelations, to raise what we used to call consciousness?

Of course, the quest for celebrity can hoist one on one's own petard. Just ask the soulless Marjorie Knoller, convicted last week of murder in the dog-mauling death of Diane Whipple. Right after the gruesome killing, Knoller and her Nazi-lite husband, Robert Noel, appeared on *GMA*, interviewed, appropriately, by resident ABC pit-bull Elisabeth Vargas. Never one to soft-pedal, Vargas, obviously repulsed by the crime, grilled the couple, eliciting the interview that would be shown repeatedly during the trial as proof of Knoller's lack of compassion over the attack.

The dog-mauling trial provided some of the best court TV we've seen since OJ. Nothing quite like seeing defense attorney Nedra Ruiz on all fours before the jury.

Who says San Francisco is a world apart? We were sickened by Ruiz's claim that the prosecution was pandering to queers because Whipple was a lesbian. We missed the part where politicians did that, even in SF.

But we couldn't have been more sickened than we were by the debacle that was the Andrea Yates trial in the "fry me" state, Texas. The media gets an F for this one. If ever there had been an opportunity to inform the public about something important, in this case mental illness, the Yates tragedy provided it. But the specter of five dead children (dead unnecessarily, because had anyone in Andrea Yates' circle shown the slightest interest in the welfare of either her or her children — and that includes her family, her husband's family and her doctors — perhaps she would have got the help she needed) seemed to incapacitate the media. Despite the obviousness of Yates' severe mental illness, to show compassion for her, to explain her actions in terms of her illness, was seen as disloyal to her little victims. That Yates was herself a victim has been lost on everyone, most especially the almost vicious prosecution and the smug jury who told NBC's *Dateline* they just knew Yates could tell the difference between right and wrong. Maybe, but the voices in her head triggered by her psychosis pushed the override button. The Yates trial was a travesty of injustice, toward the mentally ill and the five dead children.

The day after Yates' conviction, her entire family and her husband made the rounds of the morning and talk shows like the latest cast-offs from *Survivor*, discussing their unhappiness with the verdict. Her family plans to sue. Where, we wonder, was their concern when Yates was walking in circles in her living room pulling out wads of her own hair and mumbling about Satan? What people won't do to get their 15 minutes, preferably on TV.

Which is why a retinue of reality shows premieres this week on every network from ABC to UPN. CBS has *American Fighter Pilot*, which doesn't capitalize much on 9-11; ABC has *The Bachelor*, in which an ordinary schmoe gets to find the woman of his dreams (if it has a been-there/done-that quality, look for Darla Whatchername to show up); and UPN's *Under One Roof* puts *Big Brother* in the TV blender with *Survivor* and *Temptation Island*.

Ah, celebrity — just like TV, can't live with it, can't live without it. Stay tuned. ▼

Accepted on the soaps

by Claire Wagner

Erica Kane's daughter is gay!" Those words were part of soap-opera history when a major role storyline with a lesbian character began on *All My Children* (AMC). There was concern that daytime audiences would not accept such a bold move by ABC, but the first comprehensive study of homosexuality on daytime television has found that when carefully presented, a gay or lesbian core character can be accepted by most soap opera viewers.



Edén Riegel as Bianca Kane

Conditions of Represent-ability, a study by C. Lee Harrington, associate professor of sociology at Miami University, focused on the coming out of established teen character Bianca (Edén Riegel) on AMC. The study covered the highly popular soap from October 2000 through September 2001.

"While there are core gay characters on prime time programs, daytime soap operas had previously introduced only non-core or temporary gay characters," said Harrington. Her study combined audience research, analysis of the

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Adventure in Toronto

Visiting Showtime's 'Queer As Folk' set

by David R. Guarino

Some guys get to have all the fun. All the guys except me, that is. At least that's what I used to think until I found myself airborne last month, my destination Toronto, Ontario. I'd been invited to spend a day on the set of the hit Showtime series *Queer As Folk*, now nearing the end of production of the second season. I also had interviews with two of the series' most popular and instantly recognizable stars: Hal Sparks, who plays the lovable, often naive nice guy, Michael Charles Novotny (next week's *BAR*); and Sharon Gless, formerly of *Cagney and Lacey*, who plays his series mom, Debbie Novotny.

QAF depicts the lives of seven gay and lesbian characters. There are five disparate gay men, four of whom are best friends: Michael (Sparks), hopelessly in love with his best friend, Brian Kinney (Gale Harold), a self-centered hunk who runs from anything resembling commitment; Justin Taylor (Randy Harrison), the 17-year-old who falls in love with Brian; Emmett Honeycutt (Peter Paige), Michael's effeminate yet good-hearted roommate; and Ted Schmidt (Scott Lowell), the somewhat nerdy 30-something guy who is alone and nearing middle age. Melanie Marcus (Michelle Clunie) and Lindsay Peterson (Thea Gill) are a lesbian couple who have a baby sired by Brian, and a loving relationship which goes through its share of ups and downs. The show, set in Pittsburgh, PA, is actually filmed and produced in Toronto.

Many supporting figures come and go, providing love interests for the main characters, or resolving other conflicts. The American version of *QAF* was created by Ron Cowen and Daniel Lipman, partners in real life, and is based on the British series of the same name originally created by Russell T. Davies. The series has met with both widespread acclaim and sharp criticism for its raw, uncompromising view of the gay lifestyle as portrayed in the lives of its seven main characters, replete



Michael Novotny's comic-book store is one of the permanent *QAF* sets.

with sex scenes, strong language and frontal nudity.

I signed in at the unassuming building housing Temple Street Productions, which produces *QAF*, and was ushered down a short hall toward publicist Lisa Ghione's office. Lisa acted as both tourguide and guardian as I had my day on the set.

I was scheduled to interview Sharon Gless before she went into hair and makeup for her day's work. Before the interview, we had enough time for Lisa to take me on a grand tour of the *QAF* sets, a chance to see the familiar locations that fans have come to know. Off we went through a maze of hallways and entrances. Soon we came to a door with a sign clearly demarcating the set area from the rest of the building. A red light above the door was not lit, but the flashing red light I would often see later in the day was a warning not to enter; it also was the signal to stop talking and be silent if you were on the set.

Lunch scene

A loud buzzer went off, signaling that the cast and crew would be taking their lunch break, a perfect time to visit classic *QAF* locales. As I surveyed the sprawling lunchroom area with its long tables and buffets, I took note of several familiar faces in the crowd,

where cast and crew were animatedly eating and talking. The scene was not unlike lunch period in high school, prime socializing time for both students and teachers. My sweeping gaze instantly recognized Gale Harold, Scott Lowell, and Peter Paige, who brings to life the somewhat nelly but nonetheless sexy Emmett Honeycutt.

Then we toured the sets. I marveled at the wonders of Michael's and Emmett's apartment, replete with red-sequined pillows and a large, colorful wall-hanging of a sci-fi hero I believed to be Captain Astro. The apartment of Debbie Novotny was cozy and curious, just like the fictional character inhabiting the place with her brother Vic. It was interesting to walk through Melanie and Lindsay's residence, which was sedately pleasant. I got to see their dining room, living room, and the stairway that went nowhere.

The entrance to the diner on Liberty Street was very cool and realistic, as was the inside of the diner itself, complete with fake food, booths and server stations. The set to Club Babylon was closed, but I peered inside when Lisa beckoned me to take a look. I could imagine the blaring club music, strobe lights and sweaty, hunky men in every inch of the place when the set was in action.

The set depicting Brian's apartment was quite realistic, and I got to see the huge mural that hangs on his wall. The set of the



Another handsome superhero presides over Michael's bed at home.

bar known as Woody's was unoccupied but dimly lit, so I could see the cow-fabric stools, stashes of "liquor," pool tables and dartboards without players. There is actually a bar named Woody's on Church Street in the gay district of Toronto. The exterior of the Toronto Woody's is used on *QAF* when required.

Gless pieces

There was a knock on the door of Lisa's office, and soon I was shaking hands with Debbie Novotny's alter-ego, the multiple Emmy award-winning actress Sharon Gless. I found Sharon to be refreshingly candid, good-natured and humorous. She reminisced about her enduring friendship with Tyne Daly, who played her partner on *Cagney and Lacey* for six years; her bouts with bad press; her joy at being part of the *QAF* cast. She loves playing Debbie Novotny, and originally wanted her to be even more outrageous, wearing a different wig in each appearance. Gless believes that Debbie really wanted to own her own beauty parlor, thus the plethora of hairpieces and assorted ornamentation.

Gless is happy to be part of a show that has changed lives for the better by dealing with gay and lesbian issues both directly and unconditionally. "Parents are now watching the show with their gay children. I may be naive, but I don't know anything about *QAF* that could hurt the cause." Perhaps her portrayal of compassion and acceptance has made some parents rethink their own reactions to discovering that their

child is gay.

I thanked Sharon for her time, and she hugged me warmly. I got to feel like Michael Novotny, at least for the moment. Lisa came in to usher me toward the sound stage, and we retraced our steps to the white door under the red flashing light.

Today the cast was filming Episode 217 of the second season, currently running through June. I was ready to watch the boys and girls from Liberty Street in action. The clapperboard came down, I heard the call "Action!" and a scene in the diner involving Emmett (Peter Paige), Ted (Scott Lowell), Michael (Hal Sparks) and Brian (Gale Harold) began to unfold. The scene involved Brian's previous encounter with a handsome passer-by. Melanie (Michelle Clunie) entered and approached the boys' table, delivering a wry line about "cunty gay guys," to which Emmett responded, "Well, somebody's on the rag."

Makeup artists dabbed fresh powder on faces as the entire four-minute scene repeated itself when take after take resulted in no "Print!" Hal kept everyone cracking up as he engaged in his trademark mischief, including pretending to be on the verge of hurling. Between takes, people were shouting directions, props were rearranged, the actors fed each other lines. Being this close to the action, I can assure you that the creation of *QAF* is extremely hard work. I was not surprised to hear of 16- to 18-hour work days. It seemed pretty clear that the players rise to the challenge of doing their best. ▼

All My Children

◀ previous page

storyline, and in-depth interviews with daytime journalists, critics and media scholars.

AMC fans accepted Bianca being a lesbian, the study shows, because producers presented it in a credible way. Viewers had seen her character grow since birth, and she's the daughter of the well-established daytime character Erica Kane, who had difficulty coming to terms with her daughter's sexuality. Producers also included a storyline about Bianca's girlfriend Sarah, who was treated with less understanding by her own mother. These angles, according to Harrington, were all plausible to a generally conservative daytime audience.

Of 269 viewers answering an online poll created by Harrington, 236 (88 percent) responded positively to the storyline and 33 (12 percent) responded negatively. Also, 48 (19 percent) who initially were skeptical later reacted favorably to the plot.

Giant steps

Overall, AMC's Bianca storyline represents at least three important advances in the representation of lesbian and gay characters on daytime soaps, the study says. First, Bianca is a main character and the daughter of one of daytime TV's best-known characters. Second, Bianca was a long-term character even before she was known as a lesbian. Third, AMC is successfully shifting away from its initial and highly effective educational, problem-based focus.

As the emotional drama of her coming out fades with time, AMC is effectively normalizing Bianca, someone who is struggling for happiness like everyone else, added Harrington. The Bianca storyline is thus a very promising step toward the goal of long-term lesbian and gay characters on daytime soap operas.

Harrington's study was supported by a grant from the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's Center for the Study of Media & Society. The complete text of the study can be found at www.glaad.org. ▼

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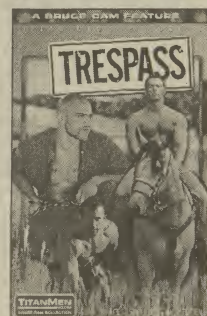
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

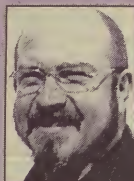
Pop² @ Amnesia

In a promising sign that the inner Mission once again is going gay, Amnesia Bar on Valencia St. now caters to highly irregular queer experiences. If you're feeling alternative this weekend and want to mingle with known or suspected perpetrators of the queer spoken-word, electronic/rock music, and hip-hop scenes, this Saturday night at Amnesia is your chance to do so. Things promise to get stirred up to fever pitch when Pop² Records recording artists Alan Reade and John Ashfield present their "Double CD Release Party" in support of their new albums, Reade's *4 Seasons in a Day*, his foray into original music and spoken word, and Harmony Bunny by The Bobbleheads, Ashfield's high-energy rock band. Host about town and living *Holy Titclamps* legend Larry-Bob will be hosting the evening, which opens with members of queer hip-hop group Deep Dick Collective in deep action.

Reade's album is a rare, successful combination of spoken word and music. His voice, reedy and high-pitched, goes easy on the ear as he explores gay life in the city. As the album opens, he sits home in his apartment listening to the screams of someone outside who has used too much crack, waits in a BART station, and muses over a lost love. It's not all peace and light. His world echoes with pain. The lyrics in "Crock Pot" are full of tire squeals, vultures, shirtless men posing in doorways, hookers, sailors, shopping-cart people, ashen fires. From his vulnerable queer-boy soul, in "Christmas Eve, Salinas," he observes: "At Christmastime, I always loved the idea of getting presents from Santa, but that part about 'He sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake'—okay, that part scared me a little." Finally, someone speaks the truth.

Reade's storytelling and versifying resonate with digital thinking and technological prowess. His world is one of electronic buzz and chaos, in which he's both superhuman and super lost. He's super sexual, too, in "Babel Chat," a clever collage of queer boys cruising by telephone, asking pertinent questions and receiving impertinent replies. "I'm a top!" one nelly young voice insists repeatedly to a disbeliever; "What's so hard to believe about that?" You can't help cracking up with recognition. We've all heard such lines and recognized their absurdity. Reade's winning way with words and music will touch every GLBT listener's funny bone, even while forcing us to acknowledge some of the bleaker aspects of our queer environment. ▼

Party with Pop² at Amnesia, 853 Valencia St., 8pm, March 30. Info: www.popsquaredrecords.com



Alan Reade



"Nexus," by Forrest Williams, on display at Heather Marx Gallery. See Thursday.

Eg

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

AlRspace Artist-in-Residence Eric Kupers presents his dynamic work-in-progress, "Undressed," an evening of contemporary choreography exploring the potent terrain of naked bodies in motion and the social and internal scripts that govern attitudes toward beauty, comfort, sexuality and relationships. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. Also on Sat., March 30 at 8pm & 10pm, and Sun., March 31 at 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.). Tix/info: 554-0402.

Fort Mason Officer's Club

Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt and Peter Fiske host the second annual Breast Cancer Emergency Fund Dinner, "We Are Family: A Thank You To The Community." Enjoy a silent auction, three course dinner, and entertainment by LA singer/comedienne Irene Soderberg and SF chanteuse extraordinaire Donna Sachet. \$75. Doors open 7pm. Tix/info: 292-9808, ext. 2; www.mamasfamily.org

Venue 9

Extended run: "Serial Murderess: A Play in Three Acts," written and performed by Amanda Moody, presented as part of the Women on the Way Series. The play navigates the mysteries of love, betrayal, and forgiveness to reveal the terrible, practical reasons that drive three women to kill and kill again. Directed by Melissa Weaver. Music by Clark Suprynowicz. \$15. 8pm. Thru April 6. 252 Ninth St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). Tix/info: 289-2000; www.serialmurderess.com; www.venue9.com

Victoria Theatre

"The 5th Hilo Film Festival," featuring independent films about knitting, cops, dogs on their deathbed, Christian noise music, not doing your homework, skateboarding on Polk St., the mysterious fate of Sir Robert Scott, and

karate. \$7. 8pm & 10pm. Thru 3/31. 2961 16th St. (at Mission St.). Tix/info: 267-0642; killingmylobster.com

The EUPHORIUM @ the Presidio

Final extension: Antenna's virtual opium trip "The EUPHORIUM" plays Thu.-Sun., closing April 28. Director Chris Hardman has turned warehouse Building 920 on Mason Street in the Presidio (near Crissy Field) into a surreal walk-through dreamscape using headsets, digital audio effects, 3-D paintings, and Coney Island funhouse tricks. Based on Samuel Taylor Coleridge's opium-induced poem "Kubla Khan." Wear comfortable shoes (no high heels). \$15. 7-11:30pm. Tix/info: 332-9454; www.antenna-theater.org

Anarchist Café

The Anarchist Café Coordinating Committee presents a benefit for the Bay Area Anarchist Bookfair and the Coalition on Homelessness. Enjoy a vegan dinner and entertainment by musicians and DJs, including many fabulous queer folks. Drug & alcohol free. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 6pm. 225 Potrero Ave. (at 16th St.).

Lisser Hall, Mills College, Oakland

Mills College Theatre presents "Boadecia: Warrior Queen of the Britons," a new musical comedy written and directed by John Fisher, with lyrics and music by James Dudek. This story of a love triangle gone very wrong takes a comic stab at everyone. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. Also March 30 (9pm), & 31 (2pm) and April 4-6 (8pm). 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. Tix/info: (510) 430-3308.

The Forum, Sunnyvale

Blackstone Productions and Chaos present "5th Friday Madness," sponsored by The Watergarden, celebrating its 25 Year Anniversary. Presenting Crystal Waters live on stage, a Cher CD release party, and DJs Blackstone (Faith), Chago (Chaos) and Mike (Arena). Sexy go go dancers. 9:30pm-2am.

21+ w/D. 145 S. Murphy Ave., Sunnyvale. Info: (408) 535-8677; www.papipresents.com

Sat

Queer Jitterbugs @ The Center

Want to come to the Swing Dance but don't want to dance? Now people can just come to watch the swing contest in action. Or take the lesson; no partner or experience needed. 6:30pm Basic East Coast Swing; 7:30 Basic Twenty's Two-Step; 9pm-midnight dancing (10:30pm dance contest). \$10 for both lessons & party; free for volunteers. SF GLBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: www.QueerJitterbugs.com

Anarchist Bookfair @ Kezar Pavilion

Bound Together Anarchist Collective Bookstore presents the Seventh Annual "Bay Area Anarchist Bookfair," the largest radical book fair in the U.S. Featuring books, videos, and CDs for sale by 65 exhibitors. Confront the ravages of corporate globalization and fight the erosion of human rights under the Bush oligarchy. Free. 10am-6pm. Kezar Pavilion, Stryan & Waller sts., by Golden Gate Park.

Harvey Milk Photography Center

The Bay Area Photographers Collective presents a talk and slide show by Oakland-based photographer Jo Whaley, acclaimed internationally for images that take viewers out of reality into the imaginary via elements illustrating the strained relationship between humans and our environment. She brings a background as a painter and scenic artist whose credits include the SF Opera and SF Ballet. 2pm. 50 Scott St. (downstairs) at Duboce. Info: 554-9522.

ODC Theater

ODC Theater and ODC School present an encore performance of "Pilot 37: Bound," featuring works by choreogra-



Dance diva Crystal Waters regales the boys at Club Papi's big party at Space 550. See Saturday.

phers Nawaaz Ahmed (love in popular Indian culture); Britany Brown (athletic duet); Sean Dorsey (solo work); Doris Johnson (a Dali-esque re-imagining of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, with music by Daniel Berkman); and Klesha Minaryard and Amy Siewert (ballet quartet en pointe set to music by composer Jethro DeHar). \$8-\$12 sliding. 8pm. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix/info: 863-9834; www.odctheater.org

ATA Gallery

Other Cinema presents "Incredibly Strange Religion," a 99-min. film/video/performance program including Brett Ingram and Jim Haverkamp's "The Armor of God," a 12-min visitation by a divinely inspired, Bible-quoting, noise-musician from North Carolina; James Lloyd's obsessive screed "Secret Sixes" (about Satanic "666" imbeds in Hollywood movies), and many more wild and zany takes on weird cults and beliefs. Tarot readings by Robbyn Leonard. \$5 (thank god!). 8pm. 992 Valencia St. Info: 824-3890.

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoors lovers for a Mt. Burdell hike. Enjoy a visit to one of the lesser known areas of Marin County where we will see spring wildflowers at their peak. It's a moderate 9-10 mile hike with a 1,500-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410;



Company Chaddick dancers move to many rhythms at Ft. Mason Center's Cowell Theater. See Thursday.

www.sfhiking.com

Space 550

"Club Papi SF — 5-Year Anniversary Celebration," promoted as the "Latin Event of the Year." Sponsored by Aguilas. Featuring "3 Caliente Dance Floors," with DJ Mike (Aren, LA) in the Friction Lube Main Room; DJ Chago (Chaos) in the Lat-inboyz.com Hip Hop Room; and DJ Eclipse (Latin Explosion) in the Azucar Room. Presenting Crystal Waters live on stage singing her dance hits "100% Pure Love" and "Come On Down." Official Warner Bros. Records CD release party for Cher's "Living Proof." Free CDs & posters. 9:30pm-4am (w/after hours). \$17 (\$3 off b/4 10:30 with VIP card). 550 Barn-evelt St. (btwn Oakdale & Industrial off Hwy. 101). Tix/info: 675-9763; www.papipresents.com

Syn

Plush Room

Mychelle Colleary celebrates the release of her CD, "After Hours at the Plush Room," recorded late one night in this intimate cabaret lounge. Colleary is well known locally for her gigs with pianist Kelly Park at Martuni's piano bar. \$20 + 2 drink minimum. 7:30pm. The Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix/info: 885-2800.

Dolores Park

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence host "Indulgence In The Park" Easter Sunday, featuring your favorite clown-drag-nun fundraising and sock-puppet theater group. Easter Egg Hunt at noon; kids' Cupcake Walk; Doggie Costume Contest; Easter Bonnet and Hunky Jesus contests. Live music by David Mahr, Hissyfit, and Ethyl Merman and Luciano Paparazzi. DJ Clay mans the turntables. Pack a picnic basket and check out all the other bulging baskets. Free (donations encouraged). Noon-4pm. Info: www.thesisters.org

Mon**QComedy @ The Center**

QComedy Showcase presents "Monday Night Gay Comedy," hosted by Pippi Lovestocking, featuring comedians Lisa Geduldig, Heather Gold, Bob Douglas, Yayne Abeba, Ken Miller, Adam, and Bridget Schwartz. \$5-\$15 sliding. Doors open 7:30pm; show at 8pm. Tix/info: 552-7200; www.harveymilk.org; www.Qcomedy.com

The Stud

Queer Jitterbugs present SF's only Level 2 Queer Swing class, with beginning class too. No partner or experience needed for beginners. 6:30pm Level 2 Intermediate Lindy Hop Moves; 7:30pm Level 1 "Beginners East Coast to Lindy Hop." \$10 per class. 9th & Harrison. Info: www.QueerJitterbugs.com

Strying Arboretum

Opening: "Wildflowers of California," a group exhibition of photography by The Yerba Buena Photographers, comprised of local members of the California Native Plant Society. Proceeds from sales benefit the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture. Free. Daily 10am-4pm. 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park. Info: 661-1316, ext. 303; www.strybing.org

SFPALM

Folk-music lovers celebrate Woody Guthrie's 90th birthday. Talk by Guthrie biographer Elizabeth Partridge; musical tribute by performer Country Joe McDonald. \$10 (\$5 students). 6pm. SF Performing Arts Library & Museum, Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister). Info: www.sfpalm.org

Tue**Intersection for the Arts**

Jazz at Intersection's "First Tuesdays" Spring Series, in conjunction with Noir Records, presents "Jaz Sawyer & Pursuers." One of the brightest rising talents in the jazz world, at 23 years old, SF native drummer/composer Jaz Sawyer has played with the likes of Wynton Marsalis, Abbey Lincoln, Irvin Mayfield, Jacky Terrason, George Benson, and Intersection resident composer Marcus Shelby. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. Tix/info: 626-3311.

Harvey's, Castro

Outmusic presents "LGBT Musician Open Mic Night," hosted by Outmusic member and Delicious Records recording artist David Mahr. Performers: sign up in person at event or email openmicssf@outmusic.com. How it works: 1 song or 5 min., round-robin style. Suggested audience and per-



AIRspace choreographer Eric Kupers and dancers explore issues of the body in "Undressed" at Jon Sims Center for the Arts. See Friday.

former donation is \$3 for out-music members, or \$5 for nonmembers + 1 drink purchase minimum. Performer sign-ups at 7:30pm. Show at 8pm. Info: www.outmusic.com

Modern Times Bookstore

Small Press Distribution celebrates National Poetry Month with "Underground California," celebrating independent/alternative writers and presses. Featuring poets Norma Cole (*Spinoza in her Youth*), David Larsen (*Kept Back*), Camille Roy (*Craquer*), Jocelyn Saldenberg (*Cusp*), and Truong Tran (*Dust and Conscience*). Plus live comedic-poetic linoleum block printing by author/artist Larsen and other paint-slinging writers. Free. 7:30pm. 888 Valencia St. Info: 282-9246.

El Rio

"Open Mic" for all rappers, poets, writers, spoken-word artists, comedians, musicians and artists of all kind. Margarita's for two bucks. No cover. 7:30pm sign-up; 8pm start. 21+ w/D. 3158 Mission St.

Wed**El Rio**

Benefit party for AIDS/Life-cycle, featuring live music by Shawna Virago and Sara Shott, spoken word by Johnnie Pratt and Kristie Shortt, fabulously sexy queer strippers, and chocolate pudding wrestling. 7pm door; 8pm show. 21+ w/D. 3158 Mission St. (at Caesar Chavez & Valencia). Info: 282-3325; www.elriof.com

Bazaar Café

Garrin Benfield hosts the popular GLBT Songwriter Series, featuring singer/songwriters Mark Weigle and Shelley Doty. Benfield always brings in a new batch of queer crooners to serenade the audience with some very lovely music. The venue has become famous for all acoustic, all original music and this night will be no exception. 7pm. 5927 California St. Info: www.garrin.com

Thu**Koret Auditorium, Main Library**

Acclaimed gay Chicano poet Francisco X. Alarcón, author of the brand new volume *From the Other Side of Night* (*Del otro lado de la noche*) from University of Arizona Press, will receive the prestigious Fred Cody Award for

Lifetime Achievement at tonight's "21st Annual BABRA Awards," presented by the Bay Area Book Reviewers Association. Presentation of awards for Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry and Children's Literature. Brief selections will be read by winning authors. Free. 6-8pm. Preceded at 5pm by a wine/cheese reception and book signing in the Latino/Hispanic Community Room. Info: 525-5476; www.poetryflash.org

HMI @ The Center

Harvey Milk Institute Art & Lecture Series hosts a book release party for Lynn Breedlove, who will introduce her first novel, *Godspeed* (St. Martin's Press). This partially autobiographical novel by the frontguy for the all-dyke punk band Tribe 8 tells of falling in love with a stripper punk rocker poet, messengering, learning street fighting, hanging in a NYC squat, having crushes on drag queens, and being on tour. Performing solo, she will incorporate the works of artist colleagues into her show via slides and soundtrack. Joining Breedlove tonight will be spoken-word performers Ida Acton, Sini Anderson, Cooper Lee Bombardier, and Marcus Rene Van, all at the forefront of the spoken word scene in SF. \$10-\$25 sliding (NO-TAFLOR). 7:30pm. SF GLBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center

Company Chaddick performs four dance pieces inspired by joy, anguish, and the mundane aspects of existence. In "Liquid Gold," eight dancers sink into the warm, tropical atmosphere of sultry bossa nova and samba sounds. They intertwine in each others' arms and mold body to body, surrendering to the pleasure of skin and the beauty of the human form. Also on the bill are "Sendoff," set to David Byrne's "The Forest;" "Flying Home," set to a musical collage from the Big Band era, and "Hard Drive," based on the pulsating rhythms, attitudes and ideas that drive society. Choreography by Cheryl Chaddick. \$18-\$22. 8pm. Thru April 7. Tix/info: 345-7575; www.ticketweb.com

'Spirit' @ Asia SF

DJ Page Hotel re-opens "Spirit" at a new, more intimate location, creating a weekly multicultural dance party for queer men and women and their friends. Hotel spins soulful vocal house, hip hop and R&B mixed with the everything else. Hotel, famed for her club "the Box" during the

late '80s and early '90s, says her party is a celebration of "unity and love for delicious, deep soul." \$8 (\$6 members). 9pm-2am. 201 9th St. (at Howard). Info: spirithursdays@aol.com

Venue 9

Benefit performance on behalf of Community United Against Violence (CUAV): "Serial Murderess: A Play in Three Acts," written and performed by Amanda Moody. All proceeds go to aid programs for violence intervention and prevention within the GLBT community. 8pm. Thru April 6. 252 Ninth St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). Tix/info: 289-2000; www.serialmurderess.com; www.venue9.com

Catherine Clark Gallery

Opening reception (double exhibit): "Trans>portal," new film/video installation by Michelle Handelman, working in the tradition of feminist body artists who use their physical forms not just as makers of the work, but also as agents of the work; and "Fools Rush In," paintings on canvas rooted in Kara's feeling that lately she's been living inside of a comic book; plus unsettling images painted on vintage handkerchiefs. Free. 5:30-7:30pm. 49 Geary St. Info: 399-1439; www.ccclarkgallery.com

Heather Marx Gallery

Opening reception: "Interiors," figure paintings by New York artist Forrest Williams, whose male figures, including several life-size oil-on-canvas and small oil-on-panel paintings, inhabit nondescript interiors marked by an occasional pattern of wallpaper or design. Says Williams: "My interest is not in reflecting the world around me but ... an inner life or state of consciousness." Free. 5:30-7:30pm. 77 Geary St. Info: 627-9111; www.heather-marxgallery.com

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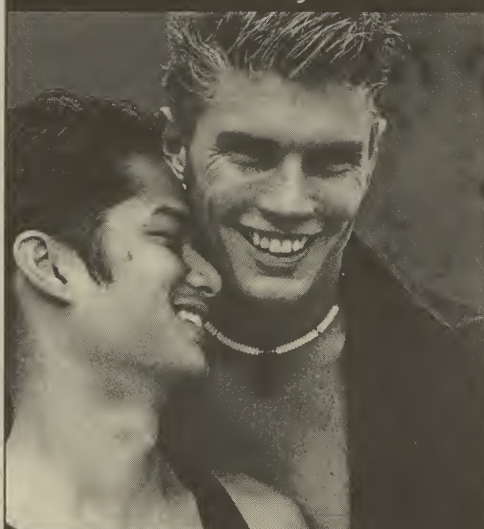


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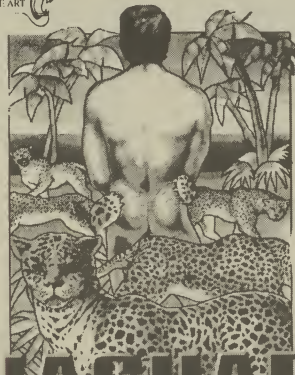
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Big Daddy wins LA!

Don Anspauch captures Mr. LA Leather

by Mister Marcus

The third annual presentation of the Mr. Los Angeles Leather contest by the Los Angeles Leather Coalition (LALC) unfolded last weekend in the City of the Angels, and it was a splendiferous effort by more factions of the community than I can list here. The El Rey theatre saw a record crowd on hand to see who would win the title out of a field of nine contestants.

First, congratulations to Daddy Don Anspauch (also Mr. Gauntlet II Leather 2002) who prevailed over eight other contestants to win the sash and a chance to compete at IML in Chicago next May. His fellow contestants also awarded him the Brotherhood Award.

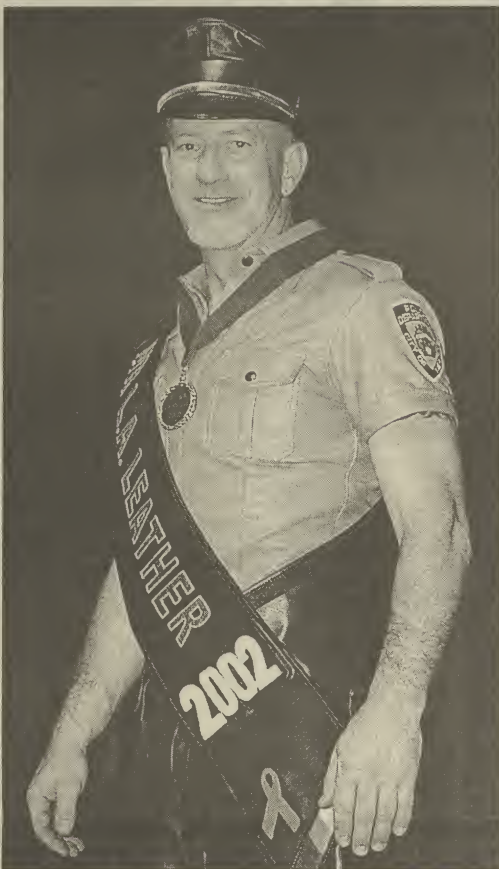
The first runner-up, Angelo Simone (also Mr. Sisters Leather 2002), will compete for the Mr. Leather of California title in San Francisco in September. The second runner-up, Gene Mar (also Mr. Regiment 2002) was a crowd favorite as well.

In his step-aside speech, Peter Fitz was eloquent in his praise for all who mentored, advised and otherwise enhanced his year with the title. In nine minutes flat, it was poignant, touching and sincere and garnered a standing ovation.

As the co-emcees, Jeff Wach and Sean Reilly kept the show moving along with efficiency and had to admonish the crowd to "keep it down" while the contestants were giving their speeches.

In a special sequence during the proceedings, Faultline owner Sean Farnsworth and Tom of Finland Foundation director Durk Dehner presented Luke Daniel with a portrait plaque rendered by Taurus Webster. It was given in commemoration of Luke's 20th anniversary of winning both the IML 82 and the International Drummer 82 titles, a feat that has not ever been duplicated. The standing ovation for Luke was well-deserved.

The lighting, the sound, the venue, and the huge turnout attested to a great job by the LALC, a unifying



Tony Lindsay

Daddy Don Anspauch was chosen Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2002 at the El Rey Theater in Los Angeles last Saturday night, March 23. He advances to compete at IML next May in Chicago



Leather

entity long overdue, with dedicated volunteers encompassing almost all segments of the diverse communities that exist in the City of Angels.

The other contestants were Glenn Smith, Daniel Hernandez, Ely Yaron, Glenn Morris and Keith Chester. The judges were Head Judge Guy Baldwin, Luke Daniel, Brian Dawson, Peter Fitz, Annie Romano-Blas, Alan

"Spo" Schwartz and George Wong. The community agreed the judges made a good choice and seasoned observers felt the same.

The El Rey is a magnificent theatre on the fabled Miracle Mile (Wilshire Boulevard near LaBrea), but the LALC is thinking of finding a new venue because the contest is such a big deal it has outgrown the El Rey.

Calendar advances

Last Thursday, March 21, *an-
next page ►*

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, March 28

Mr. August will be chosen at the Powerhouse tonight as the final months of the 2003 competitions are fast approaching. The winner gets a \$100 cash prize, fame and a chance to volunteer painlessly.

Weekend March 29-April 1

Mr. Washington State Leather 2002 contest in Seattle all weekend, the climax of a week-long leather pride celebration. Always a great time in Seattle.

Mr. Pistons Leather will be chosen on Saturday night at that fabled bar as Mark Malan produces one of the most popular leather competitions in the country. I'll have the results for you with photos next week.

In Amsterdam, Jacques Happe stages the Mr. Leather Holland competition in that great city. Results will be here as soon as possible.

Friday, March 29

The 2nd annual Breast Cancer Emergency Fund banquet takes place tonight in the Officer's Club at Fort Mason. \$75 ducats with entertainment and a gourmet dinner, the pet project of "Mama" Reinhardt. For tickets, call 415-292-9801 and press

number 2.

Sunday, March 31

It's Easter Sunday and what would that be without a bonnet contest? Tony Koester tosses an Easter Basket auction at Daddy's from 1600 to 2000, with Tom Rodgers auctioning off leather title holders all to benefit the Stop AIDS Project.

Thursday, April 4

Mr. September 2003 will be chosen tonight at the Powerhouse at 2130. Judging Dennis Silva, Eric Bernier, Werner Tillinger and James Scott Geras.

Weekend, April 5 & 6

ACL Bear Weekend in Hayward with a bears in boxers party and good food on Friday.

Mr. Alameda County Bear contest on Saturday to benefit Memory Foundation and Camp Sunburst. For more information click on: Mrac12001@earthlink.com or www.alamedacountybear.org.

Saturday, April 6

Golden Gate Guards beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon.

2nd Annual Dyke Daddy/Dyke Diva Contest at Club 715.

PORN

Circus maximus

by John F. Karr

The title on the box of *Conquered* is set in raised letters.

If the movie's creators were clever, they also would have embossed Billy Herrington's basket, thus providing a tactile thrill to Billy's cardboard cover that the star is unable to provide with his cardboard performance. But they aren't clever, as you can tell from watching this superficial gloss of Hollywood's gladiator epics. Which, *caveat emptor*, is not without its redeeming moments. It's got quality lighting and videography, surprisingly convincing costumes and sets for the slaves and their quarters, and at least one rousing sex scene. But in featuring a lovesick gladiator, *Conquered* misses the bread and circuses of Roman carnality.

Here's just a few of the easily available facts we know about the sexuality of ancient Rome. Depictions of erections were everywhere, on the thresholds of doors and on paving stones, conferring strength and promoting good luck. Young boys wore a locket containing a replica of a hard-on around their necks, as an amulet protecting their gathering strength against dissipation by sodomy, and to signify the power of the boy's future manhood. A surviving blueprint of the Forum of Augustus shows that the building was intended to resemble the genitals, with a long hall flanked at the bottom by two hemispheres. Form following function? It was to the Forum that young Roman males came to exchange the robe of boyhood for the all-white *toga virilis* in a confirming act of adulthood. And while Romans thought the penis most significant as a sign of power (the bigger the dick, the more wielded), it was also recognized as a source of pleasure (ditto). You can read paeans to the penis in Petronius, and see them in the murals of Pompeii. In one of these, a hard-on rises from two testicles.

Inscribed above and below are the words *Hic Habitat Felicitas: Here Lives Happiness*.

Little of this has informed the content of *Conquered*, most particularly the happiness. It seems as if nearly everyone, from filmmaker to costars, has taken their cue from Billy Herrington's stolid presence. With his demigod physique, clear blue eyes, plus handsome cock and



Karnal Knowledge

face, you can't deny that he's one beautiful buddy. But there's no joy in budville. He's just not much of a performer, and shows scant evidence that making out with guys excites him. Billy's lack of

"there" and the script's paucity of invention keep the first two scenes from catching fire. In the first, the gladiator's guards take advantage of him. The second finds two slaves making out in the dungeon across the corridor because — well, because this is porn. JD Slater's brooding and masculine music, surging around the players, is at all times better than the sex.

Caesar salad

Director Chi Chi La Rue is more in her element with the third scene's orgy. We're in the Imperial Quarters, with Caesar (Blake Harper) rewarding his champion gladiator with an orgy. Here, Billy nearly becomes background, as a team of pros strut their stuff around him. But not even Nino Bacchi, going crazy nuzzling into Billy's ass, can get much of a rise from the star, who somewhat stoically endures everybody slobbering all over him. This includes the sensational Colton Ford, a nasty sizzler I'm just meeting in *Conquered*. I'm told he's Blake's new boyfriend, and he's a lot like Jason Branch, but with the ante upped in all departments. Blake and Colton make a royal couple, rousing this movie considerably and thoroughly upstaging everyone else in the palace. They're so effective that even Billy comes to life and throws a good fuck into Nino. Jay Ross offers the



only star's orgasm in the film, and Colton gives Blake a blazing fuck to conclude what is not only the scene's imperial finale, but the sole scene that justifies the movie.

All that's left is for the gladiator to fulfill his companion's unrequited love. Here, *Conquered* finally, though surely accidentally, mirrors the Roman preoccupation with the power dynamic of sex. A Roman man penetrated others with his penis, while never permitting himself the humiliation of being penetrated. That was *muliebria pati*: "a woman's experience." Billy is threatened with being conquered, i.e., fucked, if he does not conquer in an upcoming contest. Expecting to lose, Billy finally admits his love for companion Tom Katt, with as much emotion in his voice as if he'd just ordered a Big Mac. Which, in a way, he has, since his admission allows ton-of-muscle Tom to give him the woman's experience. And pretty squishily, too, I must say. Billy even bucks it, bronco style, for a moment, although I can't take that as a sign of his devotion to Tom. Then he's off to his certain vanquishment, with Tom delivering a stirring *envoi*, like Loretta Young fluttering a hanky at her departing hero in some Hollywood weeper: "Win, Champion! No man will ever conquer you."

Yet pitted against porn, Billy Herrington is *Conquered*. ▼

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Out There

◀ page 26

from San Francisco, and her half-brother **Joey Luft**. (Sister **Lorna** sent regrets from Australia. Don't ask.) "Don't tell."

Table talk

Met some very charming *Québécois* over lunch at Seasons in the new Four Seasons Hotel last week. *Québec à la Table* brought their own world-renowned chefs, as well their own Nordic shrimp,

snowcrab, Boileau deer, Canadian whisky, cloudberries and maple syrup. That's packing in!

Montreal Gazette food editor **Julian Armstrong**, who has written cookbooks on Regional Québec foods and recipes, shared some lore. She told of her visits to game farms teeming with free-range ostrich, emu, venison and boar. "You can shoot your own boar." Always helpful at a press lunch.

Zen koan of the week: Is a game farm an oxymoron?

Out There loved the endive

tart baked with *Blanche de Chamblay* beer, and of course the cloud-berry baba, but the stand-out course was probably the selection of raw milk cheeses, a specialty of the province. The Montreigie Chapat is seeded with *Penicillium Camamberti*, yum!

About traveling in today's security climate with knives and raw cheeses, *Chef* **executif** **Jean-Pierre Cortat** of Nuances, who prepared lunch with **Thierry Andrieu** of the Casino de Montréal, japed, "They almost arrested me at the border!" ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

other group of seven stouthearted men ventured into the realm of the bare-chest calendar contest at the Powerhouse. Judges James Scott Geras, Ray Perea, Andy Rose and Donna Sachet didn't find it an easy task. After all the questions, tom foolery and raunchy dialogue, Jeff Taylor won the July 2003 spot on the calendar, with Mark Hollenstein the runner-up. Mr. August 2003 will be chosen

this Thursday, March 28 with Brock Kolivas, Tom Rodgers and Frank Vasconcellos judging.

Down under, the Laird Hotel in Melbourne, Australia launched their bare-chest calendar drive a few weeks ago, and last week, Mr. February 2003 was chosen. The Aussie Calendar should be a great one judging from the winners thus far.

In New York, the NY Eagle is advancing with their bare chest calendar as well, and some of the winners are not to be believed. It is gratifying to learn that other

bars in other cities are conducting these contests to raise funds for needy people. Bravo!

Next up down south...

Southern California (Long Beach) takes the spotlight this coming weekend as Mark Malan presents the annual Mr. Pistons Leather contest at that bar in North Long Beach. Pistons has produced three first runner-ups at the IML finals in the past, so the competition is tough down there. I'll be judging this one so you'll be the first to know the results. ▼

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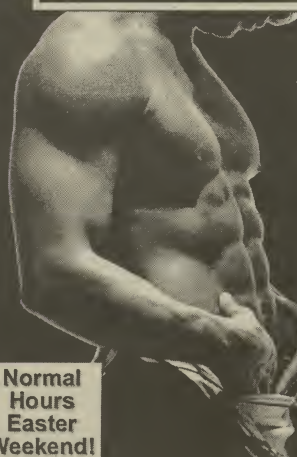
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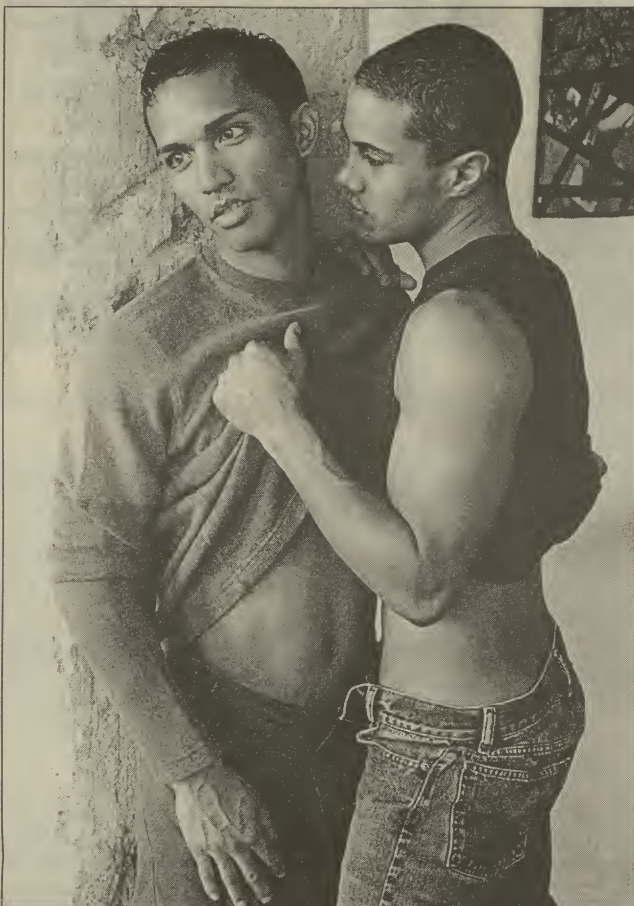
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PARTING GLANCES

Tim Japanese Older Man
We met at birthday party for John at Taiwan Restaurant Berkeley two years ago. I'm the tall Chinese guy interested & attracted to you. Please call. ☎ 71607

Tom 2/28 At Gap
I was too shy to ask you out. When we met. Give a guy a second chance? Michael. ☎ 71608

"Rich, Where Art Thou?"
We met in 1999. You Banker, lived near Frederick Street. Glasses. Gold Gym, short hair cut, born in GA, love to cook beef, asked if I had a girl friend? Love to meet again. Ken near USF. Please call. ☎ 71629

Macy's Dkrs Fit Rm Sat Eve 3/9
I left my jacket in the dressing room. You: very handsome mature man. Me: tall, lean, nice guy. Are you a nice guy? Wanna talk? Cuddle? ☎ 71630

Jaimie, It's Me Albert!
Do you remember me? We met when you were living on Haight Street. Contact me, been thinking about you. ☎ 71649

I'm Open To The Possibilities!
Tuesday, March 5 - approximately 5:45pm we crossed Fremont Street in opposite directions saying hello. You: attractive man with black hair. I was carrying blue tote bag. ☎ 71631

Robert: Let's Touch Again!
We met and had a body, heart and soul connection at Blow Buddies on June 21. Our cars got mixed up. I want your great body, moustache and mind. Tony. ☎ 71645

Handsome Asian In Gap Cap 3/9
We exchanged glances and smiles going out to the Muni and on Van Ness bus. I was too shy to give my number. Please give me a call. ☎ 71646

Tony - Buena Vista Park - 9/11
Tony: met you at Buena Vista Park on 9/11 about 4pm. I really like the way you kissed - and your eyes - and would love to see you again. Steve. ☎ 71647

Café Flore 3/9 Saturday 8:30pm
You: dark hair brown eyes. Me: short hair blue eyes. You looked right past my eyes I was going to say hi - but your friend arrived. Date? ☎ 71648

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Young Men (23-33)
GWM, 45, br/br, mustache, seeking young guys for dating, sex, and more. I'm 6'4", 195lbs, 32" waist and muscular and I love the energy and beauty of younger men. Let's connect! ☎ 71609

Be Dad's Best Boy!
SF dad in ltr wants boy to satisfy unmet needs ongoing. Boy's submissive, oral, 30's/40's, any race, NS. Dad's 5'10", 165#, 55, HIV-, demanding-vanilla to kinky to raunch. ☎ 71636

Attractive GLM HIV+
39y.o. 5'7", 153. Good shape, masculine, bottom you under 39y.o GWM-GLM, smooth, clean shaven, slim. Size unimportant. N/D, N/S or fats masculine look+, 4 friendship or possible more. ☎ 71611

"Seek- 18 To 30"
Strong, aggressive, serious, kissable, safe, love making. GBM who wants young hard bodied males with big swollen mountain nipples and butt to suck and fuck. No fems or fats. ☎ 71612

"Very Slim Males"
Young males big swollen mountain nipples and round butt. Aggressive strong sucking and intense fucking. "Give me that ass"!!! Can't handle don't answer. No fems or fats. ☎ 71613

"Give Me Muscle"
Big muscle bound males for hard strong aggressive dominate love making. "Give me those tits!!" I want my hand print on your ass!! No fems or fats. ☎ 71614

GWM Looking For LTR
45, 5'11", 240, thinning reddish hair w/pontail and beard. Works out at gym. Likes outdoors. Lives in mountains in Idaho. Looking for someone willing to relocate to area. Jim. ☎ 71632

Executive Companion Sought
Howdy 31yo artistic 5'10"-157lbs light hair, clean-cut German, Scorpio, gm eyes, easy-going, passionate, adventurous looking 2 share goodtimes, hangout, explore SF, outdoors, travel, with older muse, dark featured, professional build, not into bar scene. ☎ 71633

Handsome Masc. Cowboy 4 Masc.
Easygoing, goodhearted, nice, masculine, muscular, intelligent, affectionate seeks masculine leashed top man with facial hair, thick moustache/hairy A+ 4 friendship or possibly more. ☎ 71651

Filipino Men
GWM would like to service you. I love to suck deep for a long time. Seeking a casual date. If horny - please call me. Yours ☎ 71634

"Asian"
GAM, 53y.o. 5'7", slim, caring, seeks older GWM for relationship. Enjoy quiet times, cooking, traveling. No smoking. ☎ 71635

Older WM 68-75 Needed!
Inexperience straight masculine WM wants to learn oral from senior mentor provide you with on-call cock sucking service on regular basis. ☎ 71610

Asian Male 40
Poz 5'4", 122lbs. companionship, dining out, travel, fun times. Seek W/LB, same or older. Enjoying life. ☎ 71650

Nice Jewish Boy W/Big Shitck
Speak softly but carry a big shitck! 43 look 35, 6'1", 182#, br/gr, clean-shaven, marketing executive, own flat, home cooked meals, naked massage, small hotels, art, swim, hike, hope for wonderful life. ☎ 71652

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Butt Son ISO Lthr Daddy
In-shape, 45 blond son/bot into oral/anal services for hung 60+ leather Dad into S/M, B/D, W/S and other perverse pleasures. ☎ 71615

"Slave Needed"
Dominant lean masculine guy 43 with a very suckable cock needs a younger lean guy with a nice tight butt for regular sessions. I'm negative and play safe. ☎ 71616

"Shut Up And Ride!!"
WM 37 5'10" 195lb blond/blue muscular guy wants good looking masculine men to screw, anytime and any place. ☎ 71617

White Top With 9" Cock Wants Hot
White or Latino ass to fuck. You be under 40 not too hairy good looking. I am 57 6'tall 9" cut, 175lbs. Hairy chest & stomach brn hair brn eyes. ☎ 71620

Are You Over 65 In Need Of BJ?
Masculine straight ready to provide you with b/j. Being bare skin but you must be agreeable to finish wearing condom or j/o on my face, your choice. ☎ 71621

Top Fems And Trans. Wanted!!
6'1" 200lb. S/W/M seeks smooth, slender, feminine guys and trans. Let me service you dry! Or bend me over and give me a really good pounding!! ☎ 71622

Spank Your Butt
Goodlooking topman, 37, 5'11", 170#, works out. Seeks well-built bottom with firm, round butt for over-the-knee bare butt spanking. Into role-playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71624

I Need Be FF CBT SM
By experienced slow hands, I am also a very good cocksucker, with a little ass. Live near Sacramento. ☎ 71656

Seeking Mature Suck/Fuck Buddy
Fun now. Travel summer to Ashland festival. I'll pay hotels, gas, food for three night adventure if we're compatible. I'm attractive 63y/o, neg, hung, versatile, NS/ND. ☎ 71637

Black Video Freak
BM into fucking, rimming, fisting, sucking videos. Your place. ☎ 71658

Hot 31 Yo WM Shaved-Head
Seeking in-shape WM, under 35, for hot sex, possibly relationship, blond(fish), uncult, unshaved pubic hair, Jewish, all a hard-on plus. ☎ 71653

Physique Model Seeks Affluent
VGL BM, 31, 5'11", clean-cut, smooth, muscular 194 lbs, hung ☎ 9 12", college educated, discreet and fun loving. Seeks affluent man, any age/race for fun and adventure. ☎ 71639

"On My Knees!"
Friendly average older GWM mid 50's HIV- top muscled 6' 200# looking for friendly ended cut cocksman 40-60 to orally service. ☎ 71640

Mature Men
WM 45, 6'165lbs. I enjoy being dominated by gentle seniors - alone or in groups - who like oral pleasure. Straight-acting, now-buffed, hairy A+. Kink, raunch ok but S&M, pain, va, gay scene. ☎ 71641

Straight Smooth Sexy Sililian
38, 5'8", 160lbs, 33" waist, 7" 5"/5" cut, B's, hairy, Ass squeaky clean & masculine wants to party with hard bodied hung dark skinned studs only. ☎ 71642

Pose For Nude Photos
Mature GWM photographer in Oakland looking for in-shape, energetic, GWM, GWM for nude, erotic photo models, who also enjoy lots of affection, kissing & oral pleasures. Come for the fun!! ☎ 71638

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White Ass For Latino Cock
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Are You An Alpha Male? Are You
Rugged, bold, assertive, energetic, passionate, fearless, discipline, masculine, muscular over achiever and cock of the locker room? Need your Alpha butt fucked? Top HIV+, 5'8", 170# 7.5c. ☎ 71618

Action On The Island?
Middle aged but hung and horny top seeks a mature, masculine, submissive guy who can handle large equipment. I like it fast and hard. Zip 94501 ☎ 71623

Service On Regular Basis
GWM, 49, 5'11", 145lbs, top, slim, in-shape, loves to get rimmed & fuck into all races, 30-50y in-shape or slim bottoms, no fats, fems or scat. HIV+ only. ☎ 71657

FETISHES

How Much Is Too Much?
WM seeking mature WM to repeatedly jack me off until balls are completely drained dry. ☎ 71625

Anyone Into Feet/Sheer/Socks
Attractive Latino 35, 5'11" size 12 shoe, would like to meet Latins, Whites into same fetish under 39, non-smokers only. No games! ☎ 71626

Young Tight Dragqueens Fantasy
Me-bi-HM, 5'4", ISO young dragqueens (18-20) only for threesome. Discreet/fun 69, French/Greek/wearing Victoria-Secrets... ☎ 71627

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Want To Develop A Friendship?
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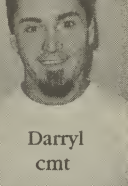
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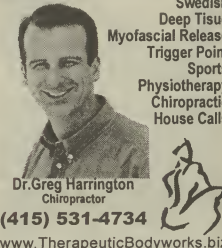
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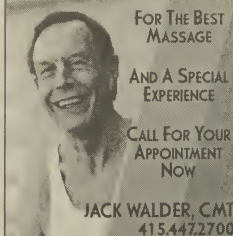
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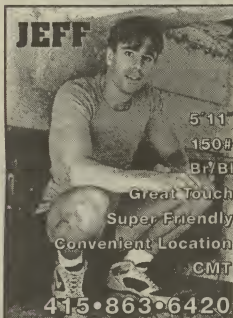
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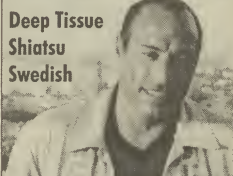
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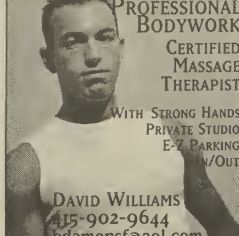
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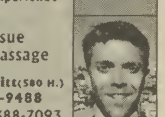
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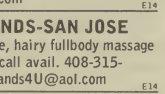


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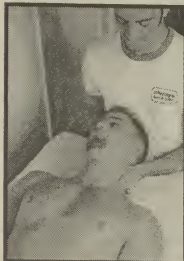
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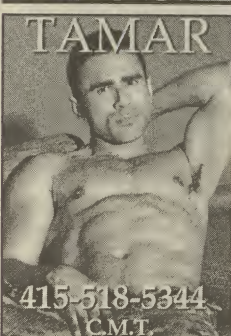
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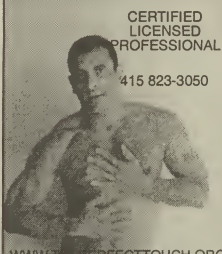
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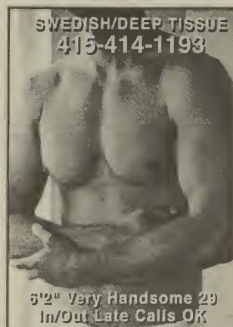
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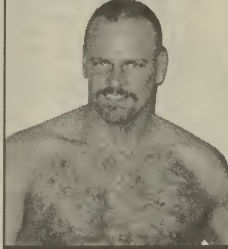
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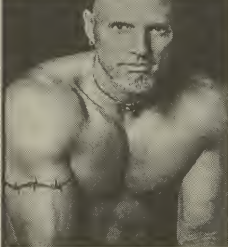
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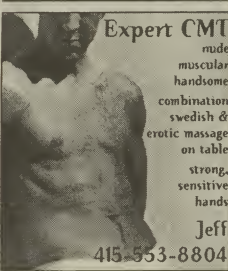
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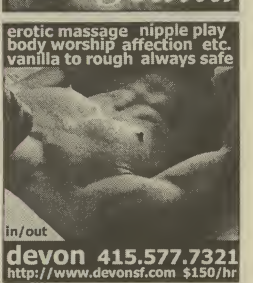
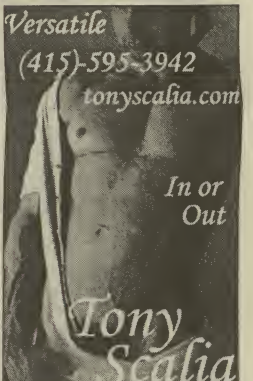
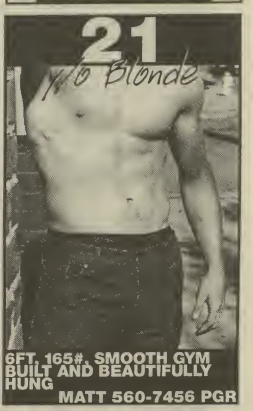


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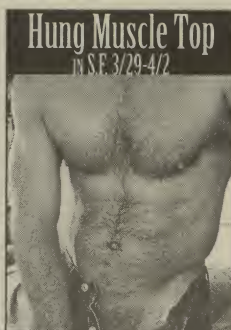
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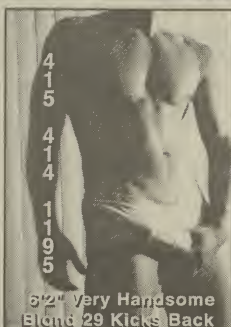
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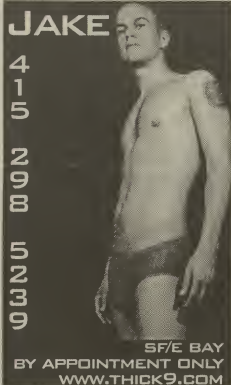
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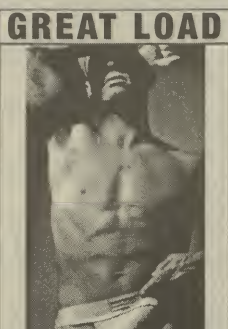
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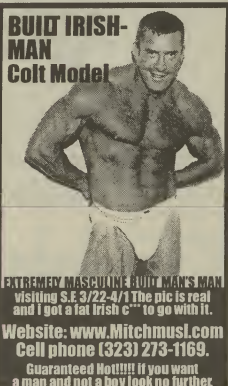
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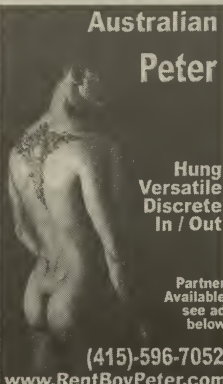
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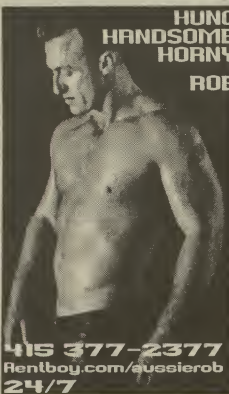


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cut chest
big arms
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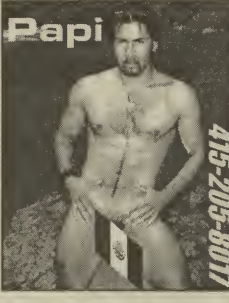
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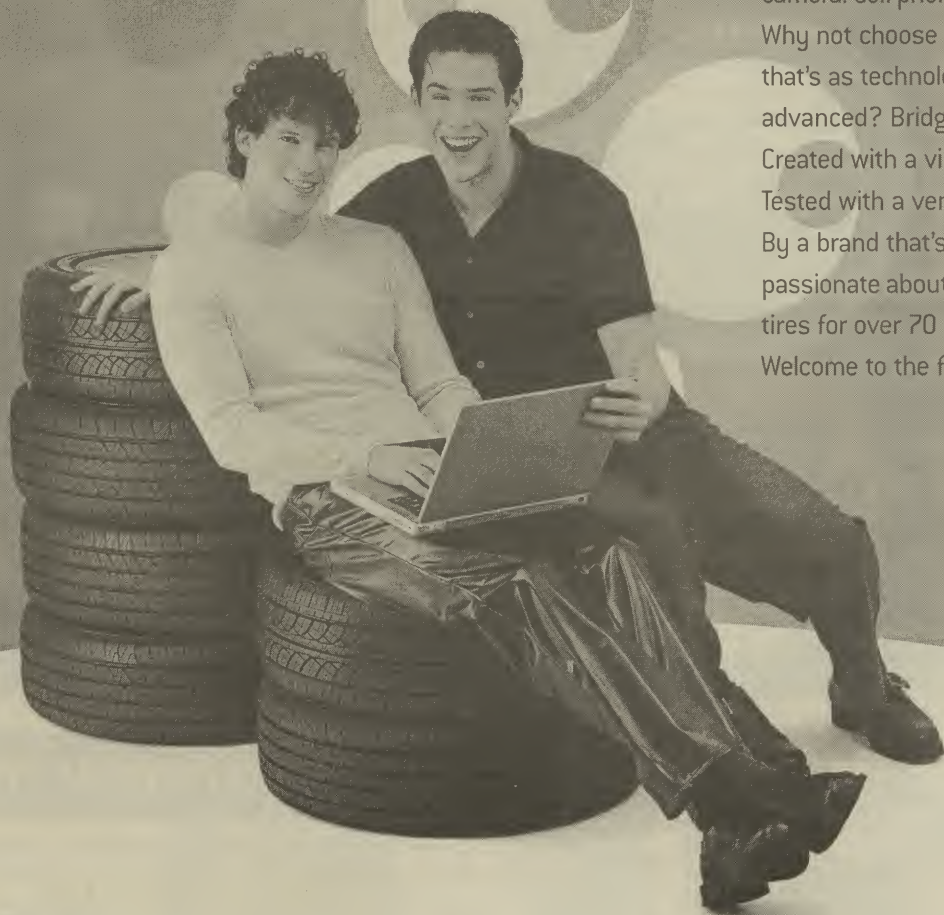
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